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Ottawa Jewish Bulletin

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Government thanked for supporting Israel

(From left to right): Treasury Board President John Baird, Israeli Ambassador to Canada Alan Baker, Canadian Jewish Congress CEO Bernie Farber and moderator Mark Berlin discuss Canada's relationship with Israel. See editor's column, page 7.

(Photo: Peter Waisor)

Memories of Chanukah, Ottawa style

By Barry Fishman, editor
During a recent editorial meeting, we got a wee bit off track (we do that often) and began reminiscing about our favourite Chanukah memories and Chanukah plans.

Then we began to wonder how others celebrate Chanukah.

So we got busy tracking down a number of well-known Ottawa personalities to ask them about their favourite Chanukah memory, as well as how they celebrate.

The answers are on page 2.

However you celebrate Chanukah, the *Bulletin* staff wishes you and yours a very Happy Chanukah



and may you create memories this year to last a lifetime.

We hope you enjoy our Chanukah community-wide *Bulletin*. For those wishing to subscribe, please see page 46 for information on how to become part of the *OJB* family.

Gatineau author profiles anti-Semitism in the Outaouais

By Michael Rosen

A forgotten and disturbing part of Ottawa history has been uncovered by Raymond Ouimet, a well-known Gatineau historian.

After three years of painstaking research, Ouimet's book, *L'affaire Tisot - Campagne antisémite en Outaouais* has evoked a reaction amongst the public the author characterizes as that of "astonishment."

The book has been widely discussed on French-language radio, television and print.

"I embarked on this project at

the suggestion of a fellow historian whose research into Adrien Arcand (the well-known Québec Nazi sympathizer) pointed me to Jean Tisot, Arcand's disciple in the Outaouais," Ouimet says.

"A number of people told me this book may make people unnecessarily angry against francophones and the [Catholic] church, saying it was 'normal' to be anti-Semitic at that time... as if hatred could ever be normal."

For Ouimet, the author of six other books, none of which have a Jewish theme, the research was a

revelation. "I remained surprised by two things," he says.

"A nice surprise was the lack of support by the francophone community for anti-Semitism. But the bad surprise was the nefarious role of the Church in giving tacit approval for these anti-Semitic activities."

Ouimet's book is careful in portraying the context for anti-Semitism in the Ottawa area in the early 20th century. An era in which the influential Ottawa priest Alexandre Beausoleil gave lectures on the "Polish Jew invasion,"

where societies such as the League of National Interests and the Native Sons of Canada gave public seminars on "Why we should oppose the Jew," where stores such as Ogilvy's had unwritten policies of not hiring Jews and where Jews were discretely refused membership at the Rideau Club, Royal Ottawa Golf Club and the Seignury Club in Montebello.

It was an era where anti-Semitism had both an Anglo-Saxon and francophone face.

(Continued on page 47)



Raymond Ouimet

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My favourite memories celebrating Chanukah

Alan and Dahlia Baker, Israeli ambassador and spouse

"All the children – of the neighbours, the friends – come with little candles into the dark room. They used to sing a song, 'banu choshech legareh...' and go in and sit down," says Dahlia.

"For me, I was born on the first light of Chanukah, so it's a period of genuine celebration, but they used to mix my birthday and Chanukah presents so I'd lose out!" says Alan.

"[In England,] Chanukah is a always a very nice period, generally, because it usually somehow connects up with Christmas and so it's a time when the Jews and Christians can celebrate together. In Israel, Chanukah is something very special. It's a happy, folk festival, a lot of parties. The concept of light is something very special there."

Stuart "Stuntman Stu" Schwartz, Team 1200 radio personality

"I used to get a different, really good toy or gift every night when I was a kid. Then, when I got older, it was a good gift the first night, then gelt."

"I remember one Chanukah, when I was eight or nine, was just an unbelievable toy night after night, I always asked for little toy cars and I got a Dukes of Hazard car, a remote-controlled car, all the ones I wanted."

"This year, my job will be

to manage the 8,000 toys my son will be getting for his first Chanukah. My parents are coming and I'm sure they'll spoil him rotten."

Herb Gray, former Liberal MP and Deputy Prime Minister

"My fondest memory is from when my children were a lot younger and, as an MP, I kept a house in Windsor. I can recall a Chanukah when my parents were still alive and we were all together there, lighting several menorahs at once. Chanukah is

very much a family event for us. We want to observe in the traditional way, lighting candles every night, and we go to synagogue Saturday morning to hear the additional Chanukah prayers."

Barbara Fradkin, mystery author and winner of the 2005 Arthur Ellis award for best new novel

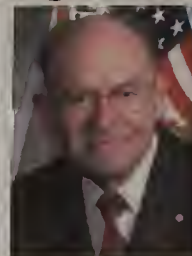
"Since the Fradkin family tends to be scattered around, it is always a challenge when Chanukah does not overlap at least partially with the Christmas holidays. Those years, the four of us often have a 'ninth day of Chanukah' as soon as everyone can come together (usually around Dec. 23). My attitude is 'better late than never'. We act as if it's the eighth night and make it a real celebration – latkes, candles, songs on my badly tuned piano, and dreidel using pennies. Invariably, I am the first out of the game, and swear my dreidel is fixed."

Victor Rabinovitch, Museum of Civilization president

"One year, when my children were young and my



Stuntman Stu



Herb Gray



Barbara Fradkin



Victor Rabinovitch



Laurence Wall



Jeff Polowin

parents were still alive, the whole family was together and we lit at least four menorahs. I remember my father quietly came up behind my brother and me and said, 'You can't imagine, boys, how happy this makes me, to see my four grandchildren all together.' That was a special moment for me, too."

"Now, I always make a point about telling people about the history of the holiday – it's really about a small enclave of Jewish people who constantly had to assert themselves for their own survival."

Laurence Wall, CBC Radio news producer

"We celebrate Chanukah in the usual way: we light the candles each night and sing a few Chanukah songs. And each night, I resolve – and fail – to stick to my vow not to eat my body weight in potato latkes."

"Growing up in my little log cabin on the Prairies, I remember our family get-togethers with aunts, uncles and cousins. We'd usually get Chanukah gelt for our gift. For a special gift, we'd get a pen. I tell that to my children, who roll their eyes in boredom."

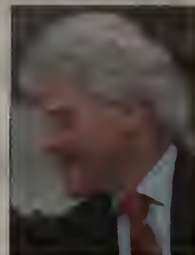
Jeff Polowin, Hill & Knowlton vice-president, CJOH municipal political analyst

"My earliest, and perhaps happiest, Chanukah moments go back a number of years to 285 York Street. That was where my grandparents lived and where the entire Polowin clan used to gather."

"My brother Steve and I were the first two grandchildren and you can only imagine how we were the centre of attention at Chanukah usually meant lots of presents and I guess that is why the memories only get better year after year."

Jacques Shore, children's author

"I remember being in Florida, sitting around a picnic table after lighting the candles with my brother and our families. Each person had to tell a story. I remember looking up and being inspired by the stars. It was there that I conceived my children's book *Menorah in The Sky*. What I love best about Chanukah is lighting the candles and being enveloped by family and the light of the chanukiah."



Jacques Shore

Compiled by Bulletin staff, Barry Fishman and Alexander Baker



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Jewish artist's 'Never Again' painting upsets local gallery owner

By Kinneret Globberman

Tavi Weisz can't say his life as an artist in Ottawa has been easy. While the Romanian is no stranger to challenges, having lived most of his life under a Communist regime, Weisz wasn't expecting to face hardship here in Canada. And certainly not in a thriving metropolis.

The 37-year-old first visited the nation's capital in 1997 when his wife, Nausikaa, received a one-year scholarship to study Jewish Canadian literature at Carleton.

"We had no big plans to stay," he says.

And why would he want to? Weisz was working on his post-doctoral studies in visual arts at the Hungarian Academy of Fine Arts in Budapest. He had a good future ahead of him, with the possibility of numerous exhibits under the mentoring of the highly respected Hungarian artist Dora Maurer.

"Wherever you went, if you said that you are a student with Maurer, already they were impressed; she really helped you. She put you in the right place or in the right gallery."

The year in Ottawa set Weisz back artistically and meant he had to postpone his studies.

Nevertheless, the Weisz's returned to Ottawa in 1999 to allow Nausikaa to pursue her PhD at the University of Ottawa. They filed for landed immigrant status soon after.

"So really, I missed [a lot] because I'm reading about different colleagues of mine [now], and which museum they are exhibiting in or which nice gallery."

Weisz took jobs teaching at the Ottawa School of Art and working as a graphic artist for high tech companies like JDS Uniphase and for sign companies like Kelly Signs, where he works now. He was able to eventually find studio space for himself in 2002 at the Enriched Bread Artists' co-op and has been there ever since.

As a father of an almost two-year-old – his son, David, is a Canadian citizen – and holding down a day-job, Weisz finds it difficult, these days, to devote enough time to his art. And he hasn't had as many opportunities to exhibit his work as he would like.

"Back home in Budapest, there are lots of good galleries, and [it is] easier to exhibit there, in a good gallery. than here," he says. He's had showings at a few local



Weisz's *Never Again* caused controversy at Cube Gallery showing.

salons, including Gallery 101 and at the annual Enriched Bread group's Open Houses, and then, at a recent exhibit where he became an unwilling participant.

(Continued on page 5)

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Weisz wants to put show experience behind him

(Continued from page 4)

This past August, he noticed an ad calling for artists to submit pieces for a non-juried "Art Against War" show at Cube Gallery. The aim of the show was ostensibly to denounce "the violence, bloodshed and war crimes being committed against the civilians of Lebanon, Palestine and Israel alike – and Canada's complicity in this conflict," and to fundraise for Médecins Sans Frontières and their work in Lebanon.

Yet the overall description of the show troubled Weisz. While he had no interest in participating, he felt he had to do something to counter what he maintains was a biased exhibit.

"That's all I had in mind; to somehow counter-attack. Not for the art, not even for the group show. This was the only reason – because that call was so disturbing to me."

Weisz presented his painting "Never Again" – which depicts Israel under siege – to Cube's owner and an altercation ensued.

Apparently, the owner had difficulty accepting the



Tavi Weisz

fact there were also innocent Israeli civilians dying and being displaced as a result of the war in Lebanon and asked Weisz point-blank, "in a disturbing way," if he was a Jew. In the end, says Weisz, his painting was hung in the back of the Gallery, out of plain view.

The opening night speakers, the poet and writer Henry Beissel and NDP MP Paul Dewar, "were totally against Israel and attacking Israel," Weisz recalls. "And the Gallery was full and I

just wanted to jump up and to yell, 'It's not like that!'"

Try as he might, Weisz could not get the media interested in covering what he felt was a story. The only media outlet that had made any attempt was *Ottawa XPress*. The paper sent a photographer down to Cube to try to take a photograph of *Never Again*, only to be rebuffed by the owner who claimed he had no permission from the artist to allow a photograph to be taken.

Weisz has tried to put the upsetting experience behind him and continues to work at producing his art. His style has evolved, over the years, from monochromatic abstracts in egg tempera, collage and multimedia to his current focus on colourful images in oil and acrylic.

"I just want to be able to keep putting my ideas on canvas," he says. "I have dreams of being recognized [to the extent of], in the close future, being able to show in a good space and in a good gallery."

You can view more of Tavi Weisz's work at www.artengine.ca/weisz/.



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Jewish Canada's special attachment to Israel

"It is 1938 and Iran is Germany."

With these words spoken at the General Assembly in Los Angeles in mid-November, Benjamin Netanyahu summed up the immense challenges looming for the State of Israel, the Jewish people and, indeed, the free world. The one difference Netanyahu pointed out between Germany and Iran is that Iran is building its nuclear weaponry *before* launching its operations.

With the presence of Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and star members of his cabinet at the GA, the message was clear – Israel cannot fight this battle alone.

It has been several years since an Israeli prime minister has attended a GA outside Israel and it is no coincidence this particular year was chosen. As the prime minister said, we cannot sit back and allow a country bent on our destruction to develop nuclear power. Complacency is not an option, silence is not an option. We know what happened after 1938, when complacency and silence ruled the day.

At a private dinner Barbara Crook and I attended with the prime minister, the



Federation Report

Ron Prehogan
Chair

importance of our contributions was made apparent. It was with indescribable pride that I stood up to the microphone and announced Ottawa's \$2 million contribution to the Israel Emergency Relief fund this past summer. The warm smile, thank you and applause from the prime minister who was sitting at a table 25 feet away was directed to all of us in Ottawa.

It is not just the Ottawa pride but the Canadian one that was felt. New York City with 2.6 million Jewish people gave \$50 million. Canada with 350,000 Jewish people gave \$44 million!

Canadians have a special attachment to Israel, one that certainly opened eyes to many Israelis this past summer. We gave generously and, despite tourism being down 40 per cent, Canadians showed their solidarity by visiting the

affected areas over and over again, including visits from members of our own community.

Israelis responded over and over again to us by saying, "Todah rabah, thank you." The prime minister and his cabinet ministers came to Los Angeles to say the very same thing.

*The time is now
for us to respond
and to do
for our descendants
what our forefathers
have done for us.*

So what can we do?

In addition to giving, we can build an already-strong and already-committed Jewish community in Ottawa to be even stronger and even more committed by teaching and reinforcing our conviction that Jewishness and Judaism matter and that Israel is an integral valued part of

what it means to be Jewish. This is a lesson we must pass on to the next generation.

Telling our children they shouldn't marry outside the faith will not do it as much as instilling the values and sense of who we are and why we are important. We should resolve to visit Israel, not next year, but this year. Israel needs us now more than ever. And we need Israel now more than ever.

So if you think you cannot have an impact on world events, if you think you are just one person and too small to make a dent, think again.

We are a tiny people in numbers, but our hearts are large and our courage is great. Our forefathers were tested again and again and they succeeded in passing on to us one of the greatest traditions of faith, morality, community and individual living the world has ever known. The time is now for us to respond and to do for our descendants what our forefathers have done for us.

It is 1938 and Iran is Germany. Except this time we have a country that belongs to us.

Avalee and I wish you all a Happy Chanukah.

Chanukah: less latkes and more learning

Once again, Chanukah is upon us. And once again, we should spend at least a minute on what is the most appropriate way to celebrate this joyous occasion.

If you took a poll of the top 10 ways to celebrate Chanukah, high on the list would be the old standbys like having a latke party, a magic show, dreidling around, etc.

But probably nowhere on the list would be the most appropriate and authentic way to celebrate Chanukah.

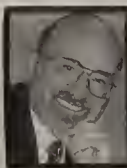
What is that way?

To fully appreciate that way, it is important to take a journey back to the future. In the period prior to the event that is commemorated by Chanukah, Jews in the Holy Land were prohibited by the ruling tyrants from practicing their tradition. This included injunctions against observing Shabbat, Rosh Hodesh (i.e., the Jewish calendar), the Covenant (*Be'rit*), and the study of the Torah.

Every survey related to Jewish "continuity" affirms the importance of Jewish education as critical to the Jewish future.

So, when our enemies said - "no more Torah study," they unfortunately knew what they were doing. And the leaders of the time, albeit merely a handful, likewise knew what they were doing in resisting this oppressive dictate.

How did they resist when being caught meant certain death? They resisted by pretending to play when they were actually studying. This is the opposite of what I remember from my early school years, when some kids (including on occasion yours truly) would pretend to learn when they were actually playing!



From the pulpit

Rabbi Reuven
Bulka
Machzikel Hadas

To make this ruse work, they needed a tangible manifestation of actually playing. This was the top we know as the dreidel. The teacher would teach, the students would listen, and at the earliest sound of soldiers' footsteps, the learning would stop and the dreidling would start.

Dreidel playing was not over, at that time, an end in itself. It was a camouflage, a cover up for what was really happening.

So, here comes the most basic Chanukah question - what is more appropriate, to commemorate Chanukah by glorifying the camouflage, the dreidel, or by highlighting that which the dreidel camouflaged, namely the study of our tradition?

The answer may seem obvious, but not if the prevailing practice is the measuring yardstick. In our time, we surely remember the dreidel, but we remember less what the dreidel enabled, namely the maintenance of a close connection to our tradition in the face of a real threat to our present and our future.

Back to our original question. What is the most appropriate and authentic way to celebrate Chanukah?

The answer is by doing that which our ancestors were forbidden, by learning, by studying, by educating ourselves and others.

It may not be in the top 10 in practice, but it is number one in theory and concept.

With all the fancy and intriguing explanations for how this great celebration became known as Chanukah, there is a most basic one which we often neglect in favour of the more involved explanations.

Chanukah relates to the word *hinukh*, which means education.

That root word also means dedication, as in dedication of a house, here referring to the house of all houses, the Holy Sanctuary (*Beit HaMikdash*).

Education and dedication - how are they related? Dedication of a house is certainly

more than the glorification of bricks and mortar. It is the glorification of what makes a house into a home. A house becomes a home when it is the place wherein values are taught and lived, wherein the sacred values of our faith are the central and abiding motif of the abode.

It is a straight line from Chanukah as in dedication, to *hinukh* as foundation, as foundational education.

Why not try a Chanukah with less latkes and more learning. It will be better for the cholesterol count, and for making Judaism really count. It will come closer to what Chanukah is all about.

Ottawa Jewish

bulletin

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Canada

Federal Conservatives stand up for Israel

Nepean West MP and Treasury Board President John Baird is one popular boss.

Well, certainly among the civil servants who lined up to speak to him following the Public Service Division of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa event held at Agudath Israel Synagogue.

Truth be told, he was pretty much a hit with the whole audience.

Baird, who as treasury board president is responsible for the civil service, joined Alan Baker, Israeli ambassador to Canada, and Bernie Farber, chief executive officer of the Canadian Jewish Congress, in a discussion on Canada's relationship with Israel.

The event was billed as an evening of appreciation to the government of Canada for its support of Israel during and after the war with Hezbollah and for its refusal to recognize or deal with the terrorist organization Hamas.

When it comes to Israel and the fight against terrorism, the Conservative government certainly deserves our respect.

Shortly after the Hamas election victory, Prime Minister Stephen Harper became the first world leader to cut off funding to the Palestinian Authority. He repeatedly acknowledged Israel's right to defend itself during the war. At the Francophonie Summit, he worked tirelessly to have the final communiqué changed so it would give a more balanced view on the Israel-Hezbollah war. And, at the UN, Canada now takes a



Editor

Barry Fishman

more principled stance on the many anti-Israel resolutions passed by the General Assembly.

"The basis of our foreign policy, led by Prime Minister Stephen Harper, is we will stand up for what is right," Baird says proudly.

"On the day when the prime minister made his first pronouncement [cutting off funds to Hamas], I noticed George Bush gave a speech in support of Israel, but not as categorical as we have come to expect from any president of the United States. Then, when Stephen Harper spoke, and spoke with such clarity, I noticed the Americans immediately reverted back to their stalwart position. That is what international leadership is all about, and that is a great goal for a middle power like Canada."

Bernie Farber couldn't agree more.

"We should be proud of the principled position that was adapted by our prime minister," he says. "And we owe our government an incredible debt of gratitude for recognizing the difference between a country that adheres to the rule of law and a terror-

ist organization that glorifies in murder."

The pro-Israel position of the government makes Ambassador Alan Baker's job a lot easier. He jokingly says he tells his bosses in Jerusalem, "It is because I am doing such a good job."

Although the last few months have been difficult for Baker, especially when facing a hostile press, he greatly appreciates "the support and strength I felt coming from the Canadian government."

Critics argue that Canada's new position threatens its reputation as being an honest broker in the Middle East – the so-called balanced approach.

It's all about having a principled foreign policy, Baird told the *Bulletin* following his presentation.

"By negotiating, what are you saying? That it is acceptable to kidnap soldiers totally unprovoked? That we should negotiate and provide financial support for people who won't renounce terrorism, let alone stop perpetrating it themselves?"

The question leaves Baker shaking his head.

"Can there be something in the middle between terror and democracy? A balanced approach is a fiction," he says. "It is something that is unreal. It never existed. It is sitting on the fence. You cannot take a balanced approach if the interest of Canada is fighting terrorists and advancing liberal democracy."

During the last federal election, Baird

told the *OJB* there was a significant amount of anti-Israel sentiment among the bureaucrats in the department of foreign affairs.

"There has been a huge change because of the moral clarity and leadership of the prime minister," he says. "I think we have seen a principled foreign policy which we haven't seen in awhile. We saw that with Israel during the war this summer and we see it now with China. You don't change the culture overnight, but I think it shows you that leadership can do a lot."

Many have been surprised by the support the government has shown Israel.

During the election campaign, Baird and his colleagues met with the Jewish Communications and Community Relations Committee of the Federation and said the Conservatives would be more supportive of Israel.

An election promise fulfilled.

The politically expedient thing to do for a minority government would be to sit on the fence. And yet, despite the political risk – and there is a lot – including in Baird's own riding, the government has decided to follow a principled foreign policy and stand up for what it believes.

And regardless of whom you decide to vote for in the next election, you cannot help but admire the Conservatives' support for Israel and their stand on human rights issues, especially in China.

For that alone, our community owes them its gratitude and appreciation.

Would you like some spam with your sufganiyot?

In the old days, here's how we celebrated Chanukah: Family gatherings. And latkes.

And singing. Also ... jelly doughnuts, candle-lighting, gelt-giving, cookies, dreidel-spinning, and other oily foodstuffs.

Followed by abdominal cramps.

Today? Actually, it's still celebrated with all those things. But here's a new Chanukah tradition, for better or – more to the point – worse: e-mail.

To be specific: e-mail from every single Jewish person who happens to have your e-mail address. Whether you know them or not. Clogging up your inbox like latkes to arteries. The exact e-mail that clogged your inbox last Chanukah and the Chanukah before last.

A bit of spam to go with your sufganiyot.

There's the e-mail with links to silly Chanukah-themed flash animation. Like Chanukah candles with cartoon faces singing "My Menorah" to the tune of "My Sharona."

There's the e-mail with audio-file attachments of Chanukah hip-hop parodies.

And of course, 'tis is the season to be e-mailed one of the two-or-three hundred versions of "The Hanukkah Song" by comedian Adam Sandler.

You know the one.



Alan Echenberg

"Tell your friend Veronica, it's time to celebrate Chanukah ... drink your gin-and-tonikkah ... smoke your marijuanikkah."

Yeah, that one. The one clogging up your e-mail inbox. Like latkes ... etc. More popular than "dreidel, dreidel, dreidel, I made it out of clay."

Of course, most of the lyrics to the varied versions of Sandler's song are lists of people who happen to be Jewish: "David Lee Roth lights the Menorah. So do James Caan, Kirk Douglas, and the late Dinah Shore-ah ... You don't need 'Deck the Halls or Jingle Bell Rock' 'cause you can spin a dreidel with Captain Kirk and Mr. Spock."

Sure, it's funny. More to the point, it was funny the first 60 or 65 times I heard it, a dozen years ago. It reminded me of those books I received as a child from my after-noon Hebrew school at the end of each school year. The books were designed to

promote Jewish pride in kids, had portentous titles like *They Are All Jews*, and all seemed to date from the 1950s.

Do you remember those books? Maybe you received them from your own afternoon Hebrew schools. They always featured ornately written mini-biographies of prominent Jews – from King David to Sandy Koufax.

Invariably, there would be a page devoted to Albert Einstein. And one to George Gershwin. And one to David Ben-Gurion, who was probably still prime minister of Israel at the time these books were being published.

And there would always be a couple of stretches, as far as Jews of which to be proud are concerned. Like Benjamin Disraeli, who might have been considered the first Jewish prime minister of Great Britain if he hadn't been baptized into the Anglican Church at the age of 12.

Although Disraeli was often featured in books of this genre, they never included ... say ... Teresa of Avila, the Jewish-born 16th century Spanish Carmelite nun, canonized a saint several decades after her death. Jewish pride only goes so far.

But the Sandler song, e-mail-clogging though it may be, is a good spoof of this tendency toward pride-by-association.

It's not just a Jewish tendency, of course. We do it as Canadians, too. Don't we often point out with misplaced smug satisfaction to our U.S. friends that Jim Carrey or Alanis Morissette or American League MVP Justin Morneau is one of ours?

By that standard, the pinnacle of pride for every Jewish Canadian would be ... who? Howie Mandel? William Shatner? Paul Shaffer? Monty Hall?

In a sense, it's a pity that Sandler's Chanukah song didn't come out until long after I was out of school. Knowing that – in Sandler's words – "Joey Ramone invented punk rock music, but first came Hebrew school" or that the Beastie Boys "give and receive loads of Chanukah toys," may have indeed filled me with more pride than some of the more obscure entries in *They Are All Jews*.

So maybe there is room for new traditions to compliment some of the tried and true ones.

In that spirit, I hope you enjoy all your family gatherings this season. Your latkes. Your jelly donuts. Even, if you must, your gin-and-tonikkahs. Have a very happy Chanukah.

But please, in the name of sanity, stop e-mailing me links to those insufferable rocking cartoon candles.

Israeli-Palestinian group speaks with 'one voice'

By Alexander Baker

The stories are familiar, but there's nothing like hearing them from the mouths of those most affected, in chilling detail.

"My life in Jenin used to be wonderful," says Adi Labadi, a 19-year-old Palestinian. "But then, in 1995, the tanks started to roll in and it was not safe to go out at night."

He goes on to paint the scene of an Israeli military raid, with people running from advancing tanks, and "the next thing I knew, my friend was on the ground bleeding and I was shot too. It was two-and-a-half hours we lay there before the ambulance came. People couldn't do anything but throw rocks at the tanks. I didn't know if my friend was alive or dead."

Labadi was in Ottawa with One Voice International, a grassroots, non-partisan organization, to show people the power of dialogue. He and Liran Gal, a 26-year-old Israeli from Re'ut, are touring cities in Canada to talk



Israeli Liran Gal (right) and Palestinian Adi Labadi (centre) with One Voice International representative Miriam Asner.

about their own experiences in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Gal, who also had a life-changing experience when a childhood friend was killed in a suicide bombing, wants to teach people the lessons she was forced to learn.

"Whenever I thought of the other side, I only saw suicide bombers, not women and children," she says. "There is a whole nation living beside me and I didn't know anything about them.

Now, in Canada, 1,000 miles away from Israel, I've had an amazing time sharing stories and joking with a Palestinian guy."

Labadi and Gal both had traumatic experiences in their lives that convinced them they needed to become active and try to effect change.

"I used to live in that situation, but never thought I could do anything about it; just got used to it and accepted it," says Labadi. "After that [injury] happened to

me, I thought, 'maybe I can do something.'"

To that end, One Voice is bringing together Israelis and Palestinians to talk about the conflict and show people on the ground there is actually a consensus for how to solve the problem.

"When you put two people together to actually speak about the things that are the most painful in their lives, there's a sense of understanding," says Gal.

One Voice has created a

Public Negotiations Platform with 10 yes or no statements, which they distribute in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza. The platform boils down the largest issues in the conflict, asking, for example, if someone agrees with a two state solution, the 1967 borders, a division of Jerusalem or security and access to holy sites.

With this survey, the organization hopes to illustrate the moderate consensus on both sides of the conflict. According to a spokeswoman, the organization has collected about 250,000 signatures to date, with equal amounts from both sides.

"People were skeptical about what One Voice was trying to do," says Labadi, "but after explaining to them and convincing them, 80 per cent signed the sheet."

However, they both emphasize their organization is an optimistic, rather than idealistic, organization.

"We don't talk about peace, we talk about ending conflict," says Labadi.

"We're practical."

Gal agrees, saying, "We don't represent our governments or make policy. We're not here to justify the Hamas government ... or the disengagement. We want to show there is a consensus. Now we just have to get people out on the streets."

But how do you get people who have not had such traumatic experiences as Gal and Labadi to participate?

"Just by One Voice being here, it gives people a place to come to," Gal says. "Everyone here is so passionate and so interested, we don't need to convince anyone. People want to come out and help, and we give them a place to do it."

Held at Saint Paul University, the event was organized by One Voice Ottawa and Potlucks for Peace and jointly sponsored by Jewish Students Association - Hillel, Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights and Saint Paul University conflict study program faculty of human sciences.

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Desertification vs. Urbanization

When Mark Twain visited what was then Palestine in the 19th century, he counted a total of 1,000 trees between Egypt and Syria. The situation in Israel has improved radically since then, thanks to the KKL-JNF extensive afforestation program. Since aridity increases in Israel as we go from north to south, it is essential to develop strategies for sustainable development of the Negev Desert.

The future of the Negev is actually dependent on what happens in other parts of Israel. Agriculture is being driven to the Negev as highrise apartments, shopping centres and industrial parks cover former agricultural lands in the north. Although this seems like an excellent solution, especially when Israel's amazing agricultural innovations are taken into consideration, there are also very serious drawbacks to desert agriculture.

Intensive desert agriculture is actually a cause of desertification throughout the world. In fact, the first victim of desert agriculture is agriculture itself. It is expensive, owing to the need to either transport or create water sources. In addition, treating wastewater used for irrigation ruins the soil over time. Another example - the market for sheep meat has been increasing. As a result, overgrazing has been adversely affecting Negev flora.

To date, the Negev has not been heavily affected by desertification but, in order to prevent future damage to the region's delicate ecosystems, experts suggest a total reversal in future government planning; i.e., urban expansion should be directed to the Negev by making living conditions there attractive to potential residents. The advantages are obvious - water is scarce in the Negev and urban centres use only two-thirds as much water as agricultural lands. The lands in Israel's northern and central regions are naturally richer; as a result, agriculture there is economically viable.

In order for desert urbanization to become a reality, there has to be a critical mass of urban population that ensures optimal conditions for residents. An efficient railway system must be built to facilitate transportation between the Negev urban centres and between the Negev and central Israel. Urban architecture must be designed to be climate responsive. In general, quality of living in the Negev must be made attractive so it can serve as a magnet to encourage people to make their homes there.

To this end, JNF has developed Vision Negev, a bold 10-year plan, which sets out objectives and strategies to bring 250,000 new people to the Negev, to establish infrastructure, transportation models and incentives for companies to set up production centres.

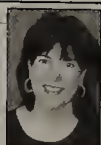
FYI

- Ruth Aaron was the lucky winner of the complimentary ticket to the Negev Dinner.
- The 2007 JNF Tu B'Shevat Telathon takes place Sunday, January 28.

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Lisa Cogan,
president

Former PLO terrorist supports Israel

By Barry Fishman
Whenever he speaks to Jewish groups, Walid Shoebat is often told education is the solution to anti-Semitism.

The one-time PLO terrorist turned Christian Zionist isn't buying it.

"Many Nazis and other anti-Semites are well educated," he wryly notes. "The problem is a lack of a spiritual education."

Shoebat believes what is needed is for Muslims especially, and their religious leaders, to stop demonizing the Jews.

And the Muslim religion is to blame. Growing up in Bethlehem and later, while studying in the U.S., he says, "at the mosque, you learn that God tells you to kill Jews."

As a youngster, he was indoctrinated to hate the Jews, from the songs he learned, to the school textbooks he read, to what he heard at the mosques. He became a PLO member, threw stones at Israelis, severely beat up an Israeli soldier and tried to bomb a Bank Leumi in Bethlehem.

After spending time in an Israeli jail, as an 18-year-old student he moved to Chicago, where he began to change.

At first, he remained an



Walid Shoebat

activist, organizing rallies and so-called Palestinian cultural events, in reality fronts for Jihad. He joined the Muslim Brotherhood and later Hamas.

"Everything was justified for Jihad," he says.

In 1993, the newly married Shoebat tried to convert his Catholic wife. Before agreeing, she challenged him to prove his claim the Jews had corrupted the Bible and were prophet-killers.

Shoebat began studying the Bible and became convinced what he had learned as a youth was lies. He says he fell in love with the Tenach (Jewish Bible), Jew-

ish heritage, culture and art.

He was, he says, fascinated that the Jewish people, unlike Christians and Muslims, "had really no battle songs," and were peace loving.

The more he studied history and the Bible, the more "I began to understand what it is like to be a Jew."

Today, Shoebat travels around North America advocating for Israel and speaking to different Jewish and Christian groups.

He worries we are losing the battle with terrorism and North Americans do not fully understand the real threat from radical Muslims whom he considers to be Nazis.

"We need to de-fang them and show them Jihad by the sword doesn't work," he says.

Our need for oil means we are supporting countries like Saudi Arabia, which

export terrorist ideology by supporting radical imams, schools, mosques and schools throughout the world.

"We are simply fighting the fire and not the source," he says.

When asked about the possibility of peace in the Middle East, he is blunt and not very optimistic.

"It will come when Jews love their children more than peace," he says.

Protecting Jewish lives is more important than a false peace. Israel should have finished the job in Lebanon and remained in Gaza, he says.

Walid Shoebat will be speaking on Wednesday, December 6 at 7:00 pm at the SJCC. The event is sponsored by the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies. For ticket information, call toll-free 1-866-9735, ext. 22.

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Walkathon 2007 Co-chairs Faye Goldman and Mike Landau and their children Jacob, Meera and Talia are all set for next spring's return of the event.

Walkathon returns to its roots one proud step at a time

By Francie Greenspoon
The Walkathon of old is back.

On Sunday, June 3, starting bright and early at 9 am, the husband and wife team of Faye Goldman and Mike Landau, the event co-chairs, will lead the charge down Broadview Avenue as people walk, run, bike or roller blade together to raise money for Israel.

Goldman and Landau share the view that over the last few years the focus has shifted from the walkathon to the post-walk festivities. They want Walkathon to return to its roots, with the community walking together, proud and strong, and having fun while they're at it.

"We intend to bring a lot of fun activities into the walk itself, and hope to appeal to people of all ages to share in the camaraderie of the day," enthuses Goldman.

"I'm a runner – I train for and run marathons. Walkathon was probably my first introduction to the feeling of accomplishment in terms of a

fitness goal and a sense of accomplishing something together with many others for a good cause," she says.

Goldman and Landau's introduction to Ottawa's Walkathon was 15 years ago, when they had just moved to Ottawa and weren't connected to the Jewish community as yet. One Sunday, while biking along the Ottawa River Parkway, they came upon a large group of people walking.

"There were a lot of people we knew walking together," says Goldman.

"There we were, riding our bikes in one direction, while everyone else was headed in the opposite direction! It suddenly occurred to us that this was the UJA Walkathon. Needless-to-say, we signed up to walk the following year."

Fifteen years later, when Goldman and Landau lead the pack on this year's walk, they will not be alone. Their three children, Jacob, Meera and Talia, will be with them, as will, they hope, many par-

ticipants from Ottawa's Jewish community.

Goldman, a family physician in Ottawa, was born and raised in Toronto. She attended the United Synagogue Day School and Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto. She learned by example. Her mother, a child survivor, was always involved in community work.

Landau, a dentist, was born and raised in Ottawa and attended Hillel Academy. He too learned by example from his parents.

Both have been very involved with Ottawa's Jewish community. Landau is on the executive of the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation Board and chaired the Federation Annual Campaign's Dental Division this past year.

Goldman is vice-president of the Board at Hillel Academy and its incoming president for the 2007-2008 school year. She is also on the board at Agudath Israel Congregation.

So, whether you're a fan of the Walkathon of old, a die-hard walker regardless of how it was done or a walk novice, mark June 3 on your calendar. This year, fresh air, exercise and walking proud and strong to support Israel will be the focus of the day. To find out more about the Federation's Walkathon and to volunteer, please contact 613-798-4696, ext. 248 or sczarny@jewishottawa.com.



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'Sparks' fly at Dr. Ruth heavenly sex lecture

By Diane Koven

There probably aren't many people who can make "our" Rabbi Reuven Bulka blush, and even fewer people who can make Dr. Ruth Westheimer blush, but on a recent evening at the SJCC the two outspoken media personalities caused "sparks" in the audience and with each other.

Dr. Ruth was a well-chosen guest speaker for the first public lecture sponsored by Carleton University's new Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies. In addition to being a forum for educational activities related to Jewish studies and civilization in a variety of disciplines at the university, the centre provides programs for the Jewish and general communities, bringing university lectures to the public.

Well known around the world because of her television and radio shows and guest appearances on popular talk shows, Dr. Ruth has also authored more than 31 books and produced several film documentaries. She is a psycho-sexual therapist who not only has a clinical practice but teaches at New York University, Princeton and Yale.

The diminutive dynamo, who looks like everyone's bubbie but talks openly and comfortably about a topic bubbie would never mention, spoke about "Heavenly Sex:

Sexuality in Jewish Tradition," the title of her newest book.

"I'll tell you first why I believe that someone like me ... from an Orthodox Jewish home, can talk about that topic about which we are going to talk tonight, from morning to night, and I believe it is because I am so Jewish," she began.

"I believe that for us Jews, sex was never considered a sin ... sex is not just for procreation, but for recreation ... under the Chupa (marriage canopy) a man promises to provide food, shelter and sexual satisfaction."

Speaking with humour, but treating the subject seriously, Dr. Ruth says "a lesson taught with humour is a lesson retained."

Although no longer Orthodox, she says her background and knowledge of Judaism's "rules" help her immensely in her practice, particularly when dealing with members of the Orthodox community.

"If an Orthodox couple comes to my office, I would refer them to someone Orthodox (if possible). I am second best because I know the rules and regulations. That is why a couple, even Hasidim, can come to my office because they can get permission from their rabbi due to the rule about *Shalom bayit* (peace in the home)."

According to our sages,

says Dr. Ruth, "anything that can be done to bring about *Shalom bayit* is permissible ... the main message for Ottawa: for *Shalom bayit*, everything goes!"

Following her lecture, Dr. Ruth engaged in a question and answer session with Rabbi Bulka. Their obvious respect for one another as academics, authors and fellow Jews, as well as their extensive media experience, made for a most entertaining and informative interlude which was followed by questions from the audience.

While audience members enjoyed a dessert reception following the lecture, Dr. Ruth signed copies of her new book.

The program was jointly sponsored by the Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies at Carleton University, the offices of the president of Carleton University and the dean of the faculty of arts and sciences, and the SJCC.



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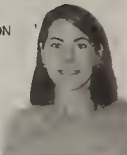
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Lubavitchers visit Second Avenue

By Helene Merritt

Sharing traditions is the primary focus of Sharon Abron Drache's Chanukah story, *The Lubavitchers are Coming to Second Avenue*, recently published by L'Dor Vador Publications, an Ottawa-based company, whose mandate is the publication of stories about Jewish children in Canadian settings.

Moving from the real to the fantastical, the miracle of Chanukah is interwoven with miracles associated with the Ba'al Shem Tov, the founder of modern Hasidism, who lived from 1700 to 1760 in Poland.

Enter Davika Bernstein, Drache's narrator in 2005, who is reminiscing about Christmas in 1978, when she was nine years old and living in the Glebe in downtown Ottawa.

Davika and her siblings, Rachel, Jacob and Michael, feel very different from all the other children on Second Avenue. They would like to have a Christmas tree, but their parents remind the children, "We can't have a Christmas tree – we're Jewish!"

Davika and her sister Rachel are fortunate to have Anglican neighbours, Nicole and Yvonne Racine, who invite the Bernstein girls to help decorate their Christmas tree.

The Bernsteins reciprocate by bak-

ing cinnamon buns stuffed with raisins and decorated with glazed red and green cherries, evocative of Christmas, which they deliver to the Racines on the afternoon before Christmas Eve.

The Lubavitchers are Coming to Second Avenue is a whimsical twist of the Santa Claus story, so popular at this time of year with children of all ages, regardless of their religious traditions.

On Christmas Eve in 1978, the Bernstein children have some unexpected visitors called Lubavitchers. Represented by Yankel and Moshe, they summon the Besht, who tells stories about his life in far away Poland.

The Besht, whose head is covered by a black skull cap and whose beard reaches to his knees, describes himself as an individual who brings light through storytelling.

The Bernsteins and the Racines, who are invited over for the Besht's visit brought on by the Lubavitchers, are enraptured as they listen to the Besht recall his wondrous legacy.

After the storytelling, the Besht disappears as suddenly as he showed up, leaving the two families, Jewish and Anglican, with the impression of having been visited by a miracle. The

children are certain their combined wish for a special event to happen at this time of year has come true.

Drache tells the Besht's stories simply and directly. She speaks as someone who has inside knowledge and wants to share their importance. By weaving the Besht's tales with the Bernstein and Racine children's wish for something special to happen at Christmas time, Drache reminds readers that Chanukah, although completely separate and with a different history from Christmas, is an equally important holiday.

Both families learn about the uniqueness of Chanukah and are especially impressed by the symbolic rays of light emanating from the Besht, leaving a path or circle of light behind him wherever he travels.

Like the Besht, Drache spreads light in the world with *The Lubavitchers are Coming to Second Avenue*, emphasizing the importance of learning from one another and sharing traditions.

For ages nine and up, this story is beautifully illustrated by Jayne Lemon and would work equally well read aloud.

Helene Merritt is a children's librarian at the Sunnyside Branch of the Ottawa Public Library.



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Working with other faiths to repair the world

By Rubln Friedman

The Jewish Federation of Ottawa is working with synagogues and other faith institutions on two key initiatives to bring about a world of greater justice and understanding: the Multi-faith Housing Initiative (MHI) and *Walking God's Paths*.

As a contribution to Mitzvah Day, the Federation, in partnership with MHI, is promoting awareness of the need for affordable housing by distributing the MHI brochure and membership form with this issue of the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin*.

In 2005, there were over

9,000 households on the Ottawa waiting list for access to affordable housing, and the number remains at astronomical levels.

MHI board members include Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Protestant and Catholic representatives. As well, the Federation, Adath Shalom and Temple Israel are among its institutional members.

Gay Richardson, secretary of MHI, notes, "We have had some success with fundraising from private donors so that we have been able to partner with private developers, the city, province and the federal govern-

ment in the Somerset Gardens apartment development at Somerset and Bank. But, in order to go further, it is urgent that we broaden our base."

For Richardson, her work on affordable housing is driven by a core principle of Christianity: "Love thy neighbour as thyself."

Fran Klodawsky, vice-president of MHI, expressed appreciation all members felt for "Rabbi Bulka's eloquent linkage of the MHI mandate to Jewish values in his keynote address to our AGM in May."

Muslim members of the board link their participation to the principle of "zakat," which is closer in meaning to the Hebrew "tzedakah" than the English word "charity," because it relates to the obligation to achieve justice.

Those interested in getting further information can find it in the MHI brochure and on the Jewish Federation of Ottawa website (www.jewishottawa.com).

A six-week grassroots encounter between Christians and Jews is being sponsored by the Jewish-Christian Dialogue of Ottawa. *Walking God's Paths* is a six-session process to stimulate candid conversation between Jewish and Christian congregations.

Rabbi Steven Garten, co-chair of the Jewish-Christian Dialogue says, "The Torah commands us to respond to the needs of our neighbours. Interfaith study, dialogue and projects are means by which we can fulfil our religious obligations to repair the world and make it a more faithful environment."

The series, produced by the Center for Christian-Jewish Learning on behalf of the National Council of Synagogues and the Bishops' Committee on Ecumenical and Inter-religious Affairs of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, consists of 15-minute discussion-starting videotapes and a detailed online user's

guide containing dialogue questions and resources.

Participants will experience each tradition's understanding of how it walks God's path and how the two faith communities could relate to one another in positive ways.

The sessions will take place at Agudath Israel Synagogue and Saint Basil's Church between January 14 and February 28, 2007. For more information contact Lisa Kurg of Agudath Israel (613-728-3501) or e-mail barbara@agudathisrael.net.



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Dr. Marla: cancer taught me to live a balanced life

By Diane Koven

She's the kind of person who loves to love. Or at least she was, before her very public battle with breast cancer made us realize even she – who lived an apparently charmed life, who seemed to "have it all" – is not immune to life's curveballs.

When Dr. Marla Shapiro – just Dr. Marla, as she is known to her CTV fans – spoke recently to a sold-out crowd of mostly women at Agudath Israel Synagogue, she quickly let it be known her life had not been perfect and her family had known tragedy before.

Between the births of their two daughters and much younger son, Dr. Marla and her husband had lost a six-month-old son, Jason, to sudden infant death

syndrome. This, she said, was when she became acutely aware of what she calls the "invisible boundaries" in life – "the type of before and after in your life by which you measure everything."

In addition to her medical practice, Dr. Marla appears as health and medical contributor for CTV; writes a column for the *Globe and Mail*; is associate professor in the department of family and community medicine at the University of Toronto; has many speaking engagements; is an involved parent, and is now the author of a new book, *Life in the Balance, My Journey with Breast Cancer*.

She was being courted by *Good Morning America* to be their senior medical correspondent when tragedy struck again. Although not



(From left to right): Event Co-Chairs Laurie Shusterman and Benita Baker with Dr. Marla Shapiro and Women's Campaign Chair Debbie Weiss. (Photo: Peter Waiser)

superstitious, Dr. Marla said her mammogram on Friday, the 13th (of August, 2004) with the resulting diagnosis of breast cancer, definitely forced her to "put down one of my balls, my work ball."

Now, more than ever, she knew the importance of dealing with one thing at a time and giving it her all.

"Breast cancer has not defined me..." she said, but she learned that "it's not enough to write about balance; you have to live it."

Through her journey, Dr. Marla has learned what is truly important in life and has written her book – and goes out to speak to audiences – to help others learn before it's too late. She dislikes the term breast cancer

survivor, preferring instead to be called a "thrivor."

"I am a thrivor for a lot of reasons: because I have learned a lot about what should be really important... I have learned about priorities. People ask me how I balance now. I only do one thing at a time."

She calls the illness "a gift of barbed wire... it is unfortunate that I had to be given this gift in order to learn what is important to me," she said. "Breast cancer has not defined me, but it has refined me – into a better friend, a better wife, a better mother, a better sister, a better doctor in some ways."

Dr. Marla's appearance was a program of the

Women's Campaign of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa in partnership with the Ottawa Hospital Foundation. Co-chaired by Laurie Shusterman and Benita Baker, the evening brought together a diverse group of women (and a few supportive men) of all ages and backgrounds, many of whom had been touched in some way by breast cancer.

Susan Doyle, president and CEO of the Ottawa Hospital Foundation, recognized the attendance of staff from the Women's Breast Health Centre, noting 2007 marks 10 years since the centre first opened. Now serving more than 900 people every month, it has become "known across the region,

not only for the high quality of care but also for support and compassion," she said.

Debbie Weiss, Women's Campaign chair of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, told the audience some of the money raised for the campaign is used to support services for women with breast cancer around the world.

"And in the spirit of *Tikkun Olam*, the Jewish tradition of healing the world, these programs are in place for women of any religion. Our Jewish Federation recognizes it is an issue that unites women from all backgrounds and it is a way to create dialogue that would otherwise not exist," she said.

In Israel, programs to support women with breast cancer are offered in four languages and are provided to "breast cancer survivors from the secular to ultra-orthodox communities, Israeli Arabs, and immigrants from the FSU and Ethiopia. A new component now includes Palestinian breast cancer survivors as well," Weiss said.

After the moving and emotional program, audience members enjoyed a lavish dessert reception and camaraderie as many stood in line to have a word with Dr. Marla and have her autograph their copies of her book.



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Northern Israeli youth to celebrate Chanukah in Ottawa

By Dr. Ron Weiss,
chair P2K

Nine Israeli teens from the north of Israel arrive in Ottawa December 10 for a whirlwind week-long visit with their Temple Israel counterparts. As part of an ongoing program of partnership called P2K, several schools in the Ottawa Jewish community share experi-

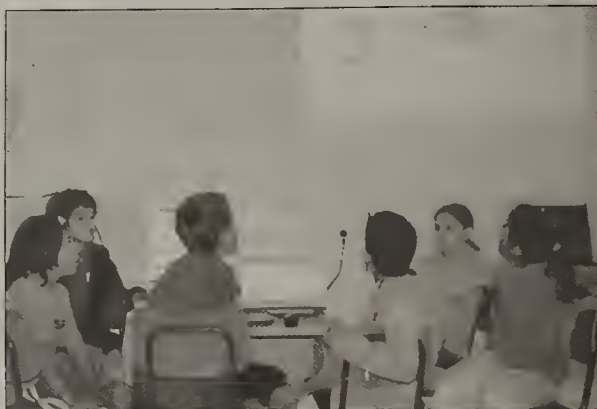
ences with paired schools in Northern Israel.

On a recent solidarity mission to Israel, a group from Ottawa had the opportunity to see firsthand some of the programs funded by the Jewish Federation of Ottawa's Annual Campaign.

We visited Hanadiv School and saw an impressive room filled with gleaming new computers sporting the latest software, all purchased with dollars raised in Ottawa.

To demonstrate, the Israeli children prepared a video presentation literally in minutes and then took us to their bomb shelter (which doubles as the radio station) and had Mitchell Bellman, president of the Jewish Federation, record a greeting from Ottawa for their program.

Their only complaint? Their partners in Ottawa don't have the up-to-date software and computers to enable them to interact over



Students at Hanadiv School show a video prepared on computers sporting the latest software all purchased with dollars raised in Ottawa.

the Internet together!

For their visit to Ottawa, "we have lots of great activities planned and a very, very full week for our kids and the Israelis," says Annette Paquin, of Temple Israel.

Planning includes visits to lots of tourist spots in and around Ottawa, but the real purpose of the visit is to create a connection between the Israeli and Canadian teens.

P2K, also known as Partnership 2000, has been operating for 10 years, creating partnership connections between Canadian and Israeli schools, communities, institutions, businesses - any-

where a partnership would be useful and viable.

The partnerships provide funds for capital projects that furnish tangible aid, such as the school computer lab at Hanadiv, and "Living Bridge" projects (also called Geshet Chai), to create person-to-person connections like those between the Temple youth and the visiting Israeli teens from Emek Hachula. These relationships can last a lifetime.

About 20 per cent of annual campaign dollars

raised goes to national and international programs with the majority going to Israel.

Prior to P2K, money may

have been spent anywhere in Israel. Now, with this more focused approach, our partnered Israeli communities really know who we are, particularly in Ottawa.

Our community missions concentrate in that part of the country and the faces become familiar from our many visits. With the recent war, Ottawa's immediate response was recognized and appreciated.

And now we have the opportunity to share these experiences with these wonderful Israeli youth.

Please join us Saturday night, December 16 at 7:00 pm at the SJCC, where they will light the Chanukah candles and participate in celebrations followed by a teen dance: The Chanukah Family Festival - Living Bridge to Israel.

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The Mitzvah Action Corps: doing and schmoozing

By Alexander Baker

"I'm not doing this for the hours, really. I just think it's important."

This is high praise indeed when it comes to young people volunteering in the community. Most high school students do the required minimum of 40 hours in order to graduate, but some do more. And if those students are Jewish, they can join the Torah High Mitzvah Action Corps.

"The idea is to do a new mitzvah every month," says Bram Bregman, director of NCSY Ottawa and leader of the Corps. "We want to expose them to different charities and organizations in the hopes they'll eventually pick one."

The Corps currently has 33 student members who meet once a week and perform a mitzvah each month. Recently, the Corps went to an Ottawa Mission to help prepare and serve food for about 200 men.

"I think those kids appreciated their dinner a little more that night," Bregman

says. "But they were all surprised how much fun they had helping other people and seeing the people they're helping, but also just being there with friends and having a good time."

For Sabrina Goldfarb, a Grade 12 student at Sir Robert Borden High School, learning about her Jewish culture while also doing mitzvah with her friends has been a great experience.

"Going to the Mission was really rewarding because you don't see people like that too often," she says. "They go day-to-day without knowing if they're getting food."

While Goldfarb was getting laundry detergent ready, cutting onions and wrapping pastries, Yoni Kamil, another Grade 12 student at SRB, helped out with the laundry and serving the meal.

"It was really interesting, not surprising but eye-opening," he says. "The people there, the whole environment – it was surprisingly clean, not how we see it in movies. People weren't always beg-

ging and their clothes weren't all ripped."

Kamil says volunteering at a place like that "makes you appreciate everything a lot more, like getting the laundry done and having three meals a day."

But the Mitzvah Action Corps is also about Jewish culture and tradition, not just the volunteering. To that end, the Corps held a Shabbat dinner event at Sir Robert Borden, the first time that's been done in an Ottawa public high school.

"Hundreds of Jews go to Borden, so instead of asking them to come to synagogue, we're bringing Judaism to a place they're comfortable with," says Bregman.

In total, 43 students came to the school's cafeteria to sing songs and prayers, tell stories and eat a kosher, three-course meal.

"That's a lot of kids to bring out to a Shabbat dinner," says Bregman. "It's not paintball, it's just schmoozing with friends."

Goldfarb, who gave the



Mitzvah Action Corps members (from left to right) Ben Stenzler, Lorne Geller and Mitchell Pleet prepare food at the Ottawa Mission.

Devor Torah that night, says the dinner was a nice break from her normal Friday nights.

"Everyone got dressed up nice, we did the regular Shabbat blessings, explained the Parsha of the week, then we went and prayed for a bit," she says. "But it wasn't boring prayers, we did it with tunes and music."

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Controversial artist kicks dust in critics' eyes

By Sharon Abron Drache

Castings, vestiges and post-modern sculptures by Deborah Margo, representing a decade of her work and incorporating photographs, drawings, maps and history, are currently on exhibit at the Ottawa Art Gallery.

Margo describes her work as "reflecting the histories of peoples that have been lost, cast into new images," while Emily Falvey, the gallery's curator, calls Margo a post-minimalist, whose sculptures are "created in the shadows of everyday life, distant from the mass communication that daily floods our imaginations."

In an essay entitled *Cast-off: A Voyage to the Bottom of Repetition*, Falvey tells the wonderful story of how she met Margo in 1996 at a fundraiser for the Ottawa Art Gallery.

Several artists were asked to transform an ordinary chair into a work of art; two of the most controversial entries were a chair with a phallic spike protruding through the seat and Margo's pile of sawdust.

"It appeared that she was kicking dust in the eyes of the auction participants," wrote Falvey, "reminding them of the pretensions of contemporary art, which is supposed to be economically disinterested."

The so-called "rude" pile of sawdust was purchased by



Deborah Margo

(Photo: Marc Dermer)

a friend of Falvey's, who, for practical reasons, separated the sawdust into three large glass jars.

This account is relevant to Margo's current show, featuring unique sculptures in her defiantly bold and minimalist, yet practical style. But the creative journey Margo took to make them only happens after long periods of contemplation and planning.

Registers of Attendance, finished in 1999, and *Much-mor Daily Register*, completed this year, are two such sculptures. They were inspired by original records documenting the existence of student groups, in the former sculpture's case from 1929 to 1954.

Like Margo's pile of sawdust, created from an ordinary chair, these wood and glass podiums, which display sparse pen and ink vellum registers, remind us

every detail of our existing lives will eventually be transformed or obliterated.

Medical Histories, ongoing since 2002, is an equally eerie sound and sculpture installation, created from shredded medical records, with an accompanying sound track. From 1992 to 2002, Margo worked as a medical archivist for a doctor specializing in family practice, maintaining 1,500 patient charts.

"The tending of this medical archive was like caring for a well-ordered graveyard," Margo says, "where all the detailed accounts of particular lives became insubstantial, forgotten."

The irony is that physicians are bound to store the files of dead or departed patients for 15 years, before disposing of them. Further, a certificate is required from the disposal firm, guaranteeing final destruction.

In order to create the installation, Margo had to get permission to obliterate a number of those records. After shredding the files into snow-like confetti, she created homemade sheets of paper, arranging them in a freestanding stack.

Falvey wrote about the installation, saying, "Small fragments slough off continuously, creating metaphorically charged scatter around the sculptural column, very much like ash."

The accompanying soundtrack – the physician's voice diagnosing and suggesting treatments – is haunting, as is the height of the pile, which currently reaches almost halfway up the gallery room's wall.

Giant Okeydokes – a favourite of Margo's children, Noah, 14, and Eva, 11 – was created by repeatedly soaking in water 80 giant, candy jawbreakers called "okeydokes." They were then scattered on the floor to form colourful patterns. Like the pile of controversial sawdust, the 80 swollen candies call to mind something totally different from what they actually are.

Deborah Margo is married to Dr. Marc Dermer and they are active members of the Ottawa Reconstructionist Havurah. While Margo acknowledges her art does not have specific Jewish content, her work, like Jewish civilization, reflects a fascination with history that is never lost because it is continuously recast into new moulds.

Margo's sculptures are held in three public Canadian collections: the Owens Art gallery at Mount Allison University, where Deborah served as artist-in-residence in 1999, the City of Ottawa and the Ottawa Art Gallery. Currently, Margo teaches

painting and sculpture at the University of Ottawa. Her latest work is on display at the Contemporary Galleries of the Ottawa Art Gallery, 2 Daly Street.

The show opened November 2 and runs to Sunday, January 7, 2007.

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hosted by Barry & Marcia Cantor
7:30pm Dec 13, Jan 10, Feb 13, March 14
- If you are unable to attend any of these study groups, you can learn Pirket Avot on your own. Just call us and we'll add your name to the list! **More to Come!** - More groups will be forming in the weeks to come. If you would like to host one in your home, please let us know!

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Local teens attend the Friendship Circle training session. If you are interested in volunteering, call 613-729-1619.

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just about anything to stimulate and help the children.

The families share their stories and experiences and enjoy the respite while the child and teen friends engage in fun and play.

As well, families were involved in helping set up the program.

Many attended the first volunteer training session and the discussions were mature and rewarding.

Julie Kanter lectured in an informal way and contributed greatly to the program and to the teenagers' knowledge.

Home visits are about to start. Families that would like to benefit from this program or teenagers with lots of energy and a great heart are asked to volunteer by contacting the Friendship Circle at the Jewish Youth Library (613-729-1619 or e-mail friendship.circle@yahoo.ca).

The teens go to the homes of the children with special needs and, in the presence of the parents, play games, crafts, read books or do

One or two teenage volunteers will visit children with special needs in their homes once a week for about an hour. They will play and interact with the child, giving parents a much-needed respite.

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Chanukah lamps reflect the unfolding saga of the Jewish people

By Batsheva Pomerantz

(IPS) While the main story behind the Chanukah lamp is that of the miracle that took place over 2,000 years ago in the Land of Israel, the Chanukah lamp (or *chanukiyah*) also reflects the trails and tales of the Jewish people throughout the generations.

In October, the Wolfson Museum at Hechal Shlomo (the former seat of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel) in Jerusalem, which houses approximately 5,000 Jewish ceremonial objects, mounted an exhibition entitled *The Development of the Chanukiyah's Design*.

"The focus is neither on ritual nor ethnography," says Yehuda Levy-Aldema, director and curator of the museum. "It is not about objects but about the spiritual essence of the Jewish people; how the Jewish people survived for thousands of years due to Judaism's content and spirituality."

"The basic structure of the *chanukiyah* has not changed," says Levy-Aldema, "and its main purpose is still to fulfill the commandment to light candles. The vessels for oil and a place for the *shamash* remain but the design is functional and changed according to the needs of Jews in their communities."

An elongated stone *chanukiyah* from Yemen with eight apertures for the oil and wicks is based on an early form of the oil lamp. This earliest known example of this form was found in a burial cave in Jerusalem.

During the Talmudic era (135-500 CE), the *chanukiyah* was placed outside the entrance to the house in order to publicize the miracle. In the Land of Israel and Babylonia, lamps were encased in glass lanterns to protect them from winter winds.

Later, when Jews dispersed to other countries and found themselves in danger of persecution, the lamps

were moved indoors.

According to the Talmud, the entrance to the house should have a "*mezuzah* on the right and a Chanukah lamp on the left" in order to surround oneself with *mitzvot*. This influenced the development of the lamp as a hanging object in the Middle Ages, in both the Sephardi and Ashkenazi communities, with a high back from which it was suspended. Hanging lamps from North Africa had a triangular shape.

One high backed lamp on exhibit is a transformed Prussian helmet from the late 19th or early 20th century, which may have belonged to a Jewish soldier or could have been found on the battlefield. A 19th century German *chanukiyah* is made of individual vessels resembling miniature seats and another is made of individual tear-shaped clay vessels.

"All Jews observed lighting the *chanukiyah* and they purchased Chanukah lamps according to their budget. Some could afford silver ones, while others made do with brass," explains Levy-Aldema as he points to an Israeli lamp from the 1960s created from the lid of a large can, slightly folded to create the base, with small receptacles for the candles.

"Since the 19th century, when oil became more expensive, lamps were also designed to hold candles," notes Levy-Aldema. "Candles are an appropriate substitute, although today increasing numbers of people are returning to oil."

Some Chanukah lamps originally functioned as Sabbath candlesticks and, at a later date, a panel with slots for Chanukah candles was added.

Dutch Chanukah lamps strongly resemble Moroccan *chanukiyot* due to the influx of Spanish and Portuguese Jews to both Holland and Morocco after the Spanish Expulsion. Unlike Eastern

European lamps, which are usually cast, Dutch Chanukah lamps are mostly of sheet brass with squarish backplates and scalloped tops and are embossed with flowers, birds, Stars of David, menorahs and the word Chanukah in Hebrew.

In 16th and 17th century Italy, fine bronze *chanukiyot* were cast with pierced and chased decoration and engraved with themes borrowed from the Renaissance ornament of the period.

In Syria and Iraq, the backplates were decorated with stars, crescents and *hamsas* – a hand to ward off the evil eye and which is associated with Islam.

Levy-Aldema linked the *chanukiyot* in the Wolfson Museum's collection with the symbols and ideas of the Knesset menorah – the large bronze menorah facing the Knesset, which was designed by sculptor Benno Elkan and donated by members of the British parliament in 1956.

The exhibit includes replicas of the Knesset menorah's 29 panels, which depict figures and events highlighting the history and revival of the Jewish people and intersperses them with 20 lamps from the collection.

One relief, for example, depicting arches – a kabbalistic symbol symbolizing the Ten Divine Emanations – is positioned near a Moroccan *chanukiyah* with a *hamsa*, birds and other kabbalistic symbols. A beautiful 19th century Spanish *chanukiyah* adorned with ornamental style buildings from Spanish Jewry's Golden Age, is exhibited alongside a relief of two influential Spanish scholars, Nachmanides and Rabbi Yehudah HaLevi, deep in discussion.

Many of the panels depict the courage of the Jews through the ages, like the ghetto uprising and the Maccabee brothers, led by Yehuda, fighting the Greeks. Matching this idea of courage are a



A 19th century German *chanukiyah* (below) with individual vessels resembling miniature seats and another (above) with individual tear-shaped clay vessels. To the right is a Chanukah lamp from Slovakia with authentic ammunition shells to hold candles. (IPS photo courtesy of Wolfson Museum, Hechal Shlomo, Jerusalem)

Chanukah lamp from Slovakia with authentic ammunition shells to hold candles and an artistic Polish silver *chanukiyah* with tiny lions for

the candles, representing the courage of Yehuda.

The displays in this exhibit highlight the narrative and spirit of the Jews throughout

the generations and in various countries. As the saga of the Jewish people continues, the versatile Chanukah lamp continues to relate that story.



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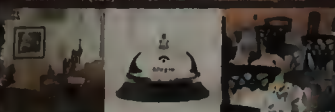
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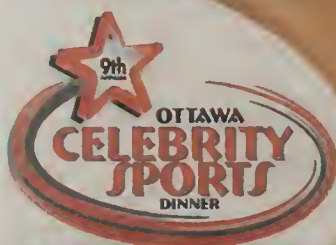
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A record 950 guests and 90 celebrity athletes, including NHL hockey legends, made the 9th annual Ottawa Celebrity Sports Dinner on November 2nd a rousing success.

The sell-out crowd in the salons at Lansdowne Park was treated to an evening filled with celebrity sightings and autograph signings. Montreal Canadians' fans were especially thrilled as members of hockey's greatest team, including Guy Lafleur, Henri Richard, Yvan Cournoyer, Rejean Houle and Peter Mahovlich, were in attendance.

Other NHL Hall of Famers Gerry Cheevers, Brad Park and Dale Hawerchuck made it a night to remember, as did Ottawa Senators players Daniel Alfredsson, Ray Emery, Antoine Vermette and Brian McGrattan.

While hockey was theme of the evening, current and former CFL players, Olympians, and World Champions, as well as an assembly of local and national media personalities added to the excitement of this star-studded event.

Guests had the chance to bid on popular sports memorabilia and were offered the rare opportunity courtesy of Staples to have their pictures taken with the Memorial Cup, Hart, Conn Smythe and Calder trophies.

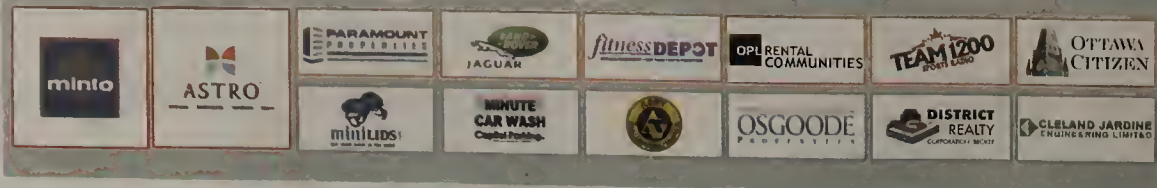
Canadian Television icon, Michael Landsberg was in top form as Master of Ceremonies while Brad Park, one of hockey's legendary defensemen, delivered an inspiring talk as keynote speaker.

Other highlights included the awarding of the Brian Kilrea trophy for outstanding community service to Ottawa 67's owner Jeff Hunt. Stuntman Stu of the Team 1200 added to the anticipation and energy of the evening by auctioning off popular live-auction items including a \$30,000 renovation "gift card" from Astro Design Centre.

Since 1998, the Ottawa Celebrity Sports Dinner has raised over \$600,000 for several charitable causes, including the Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation, Football Canada, the Soloway Jewish Community Centre and the Bell Capital Cup. This year's event was the most successful to date, raising over \$200,000.

- Lynne Bermel

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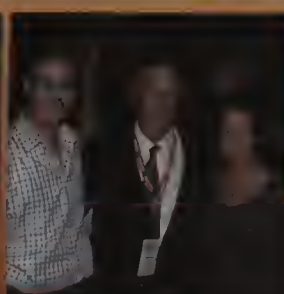
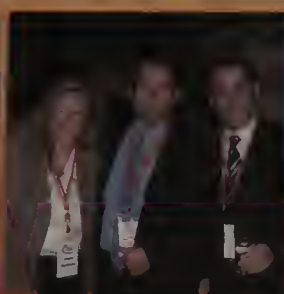
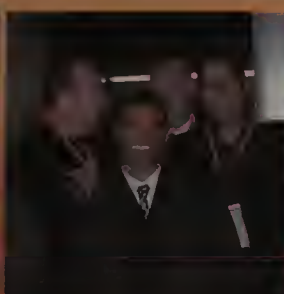
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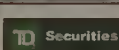
"The Ottawa Celebrity Sports Dinner gets better every year," said Stuart Ages, Committee Chair, who promises that next years milestone 10th annual dinner will be another memorable evening.



"I'd like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who attended, our volunteers, our celebrity athletes and all our generous sponsors without whom our success would not have been possible. Mark your calendars for next November!"



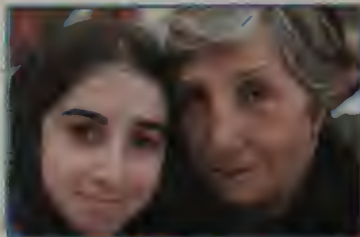
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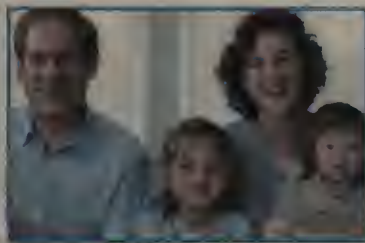
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Shore launches new children's book

The official launch of Jacques Shore's latest children's book, *Friday Night with the Pope*, recently took place at Library Archives Canada.

The book is a true story of the author's visit with the late Pope John Paul II at his Vatican residence in June 2003.

"I wanted to share with the world the John Paul II that I knew. The John Paul II that I had the privilege of knowing because of my mother," he says.

Shore, in explaining why he wrote the story as a children's book, says, "I wanted to share the story through the eyes of a young boy because many of us felt like



Jacques Shore with his mother Dr. Lena Allen-Shore, at the Library Archives Canada launch of his latest book, *Friday Night with the Pope*. (Photo: Jean-Marc Carrisse)

children in the presence of the late Pontiff. I also believed my story, which explains the lessons of the Pope, would be better understood by children reading what happened during that Friday night Shabbat dinner.

"By children understanding the truths expressed in this book, I am confident they may be better able to share the Pope's lessons. It is my wish that it will build

bridges among all people on earth."

Guests at the event included Archbishop Luigi Ventura, apostolic nuncio to Canada; Rabbi Reuven Bulka; Herb Gray; Treasury Board President John Baird and Senator Laurier Lapierre.

Friday Night with the Pope is available at local bookstores, israelbooks.com and at amazon.ca.

Ian Sherman receives accounting honour

Well known Jewish community volunteer Ian Sherman has been admitted into the Fellowship by the Council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario.

It is the highest designation the Institute confers and it recognizes an individual's career achievements and contributions to colleagues, the accounting profession, clients and the community.

Sherman is a tax partner at Ernst & Young.

He is the treasurer of the Ottawa Jewish Federation

and sits on its executive board. He is a vice-chair of the Jewish Community Centers Association of North America, president of the Canadian Council of Jewish Community Centres, a past chair of the board of directors of the Soloway JCC and founder and primary organizer of the Ottawa Celebrity Sports Dinner.

As well, Sherman has spent a significant amount of time working on various projects for the Ottawa Senators Foundation.



Ian Sherman



Camp Gan Israel holds information evening

(From left to right) Devora Caytak, Norma Silverstone, Alla Studin, Debra Sussman, Stacy Ball and Rena Sabloff at an information evening held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Sabloff for Camp Gan Israel, a camp for girls ages three to 14. Alla Studin spoke about the extensive sports program being planned and Stacey Ball gave an overview of the professional Red Cross Swim Instruction program at the camp. For more information about Camp Gan Israel, call 613-729-7712.

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No truce between Olmert and Peretz

By Gil Hoffman

The cease-fire agreement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority did not yield a truce between Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Defense Minister Amir Peretz.

Olmert and Peretz fought over credit for the Israeli-Palestinian cease-fire. Peretz's associates said Olmert should thank his defense minister for his conversation with PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas that sparked the high-profile battle between them.

"The entire country, especially the prime minister, should thank the defense minister for his efforts," said Labor faction chairman Yoram Marciano, a Peretz loyalist. "What people thought was a joke ended up leading to a cease-fire that was the fruit of his labor. Everyone who made fun of him last week should call Amir Peretz and say, 'I was mistaken, I am sorry.'"

Marciano said Peretz risked his reputation, subjected himself to character assassination and nearly lost his job, but it would all be worth it if he succeeded in bringing security to his neighbours in Sderot.

Peretz said in a speech in Rahat that the "cease-fire did not come out of nowhere," suggesting that "it was the product of constant military pressure."

Olmert, however, claimed credit for



Israeli Defense Minister Amir Peretz sits between his military secretary Brig.-Gen. Eitan Dangoth and Chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee MK Tzahi Hanegbi during a foreign affairs and defense committee meeting.

(JP Photo: Ariel Jerolimski)

himself, suggesting in a speech at the same event that it came about due to his talk with Abbas and "weeks of constant contacts" between his office and Abbas's that "established understandings."

Olmert's associates said that if anything, Peretz's conversation with Abbas interfered with the progress made in a string of meetings between Olmert's aides, Yoram Turbowicz and Shalom Turgeman, with Abbas's aides, Saeb Erekat and Rafik Hussein, as well as secret Israeli-Palestinian security meetings.

"The prime minister and the Palestinians agree that the cease-fire came about because of the talks initiated by Ehud Olmert," a source close to Olmert said. "I

don't think Peretz harmed the country, but he acted contrary to his authority. Ministers have to do what the prime minister says even if they have the best intentions and even if the results are good."

In what might be bad news for Olmert, the Labor Party's house subcommittee decided to recommend that the Labor primary be held as late as early June and not May 1 as had been talked about.

The Labor central committee will meet on December 17 to set a final date for the primary, which would bring about the departure of Peretz from the Defense Ministry if he loses.

(© The Jerusalem Post)

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Ethiopians celebrate Sigd with a focus on youth

By Ruth Eglash

The presence of so much spiked hair, ripped jeans, chains, piercings and the latest fashionable clothes might have led one to think a rock concert was taking place along Jerusalem's Haas Promenade. In fact, it was the annual Ethiopian Jewish festival of Sigd, celebrated 50 days after Yom Kippur on the 29th of Heshvan.

As the community's elders followed along with prayers by *kessim* (religious leaders), thousands of Ethiopian teenagers enjoyed the treats of food vendors, browsed stalls selling Ethiopian flags and music discs and walked along the length of the picturesque promenade overlooking the capital's old city.

Bused in from around the country, the Jerusalem gathering is the main focus of Sigd, which means to prostrate oneself in worship and is meant to renew the covenant between God and the people of Israel. The prayers, recited in the ancient Ethiopian language of Ge'ez, express a longing for Jerusalem.

Dressed in their traditional garb, throngs of older men and



Ethiopian Jews pray at the Sherover Promenade in Talpiot overlooking Jerusalem, during the Sigd holiday. (JP Photo: Ariel Jerozolinski)

women joined in the prayers, waving their hands and kissing the ground.

"No one is eating or drinking; we are just praying," commented one woman, identifying herself as Zehava.

"Even though we are now here in Israel, it is still important to pray to help strengthen the Jews and bring them all back to Israel."

When asked if she thought the festival had the same meaning for the younger Ethiopian generation,

she nodded emphatically. "Look how many youth came; everyone here thinks this festival is important."

But only a few metres away, just beyond the makeshift amphitheatre, most of the youths

were enjoying the social aspect of the holiday.

"Our parents are over there praying and we came here to meet our friends," Eden Oshada, 15, from Jerusalem, told *The Jerusalem Post*.

Her friend Habensh, 15, said even though she was not fasting as is the custom on Sigd, she still believed it was very important to keep the holiday.

The same rang true for a quartet of teens from Rehovot.

"We don't fast, but we still think it is important to mark this holiday," said Adi, 15.

But when asked what the significance of this festival was and what all the praying meant, she and her three friends had no answers.

"I don't know," she said looking blank.

"The young people here are lost," explained Avi Masfin, spokesman for the Israel Association For Ethiopian Jews, which had set up a tent along the promenade to hand out information on the festival and to get community members to sign a petition against drugs and alcohol within their

(Continued on page 29)



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Young people not aware of significance of the festival

(Continued from page 28)

ranks. "They come here to meet with friends and family. For them, it is a day off from school."

He said, a month ago, a number of Ethiopian groups got together and decided to set up booths and tents aimed at engaging the youth and explaining to them the real meaning of the holiday.

"It was a quick decision," he said, adding "we hope to make it part of the holiday. Next year, we will be more organized."

At the tent belonging to the Steering Center for Ethiopian Immigrants in the Education System, director David Mihert explained this was the first year the centre had taken such an initiative.

"The youth on the promenade do not know what is going on," said Mihert. "The prayers are in Ge'ez and they do not understand. We want to provide them with workshops to explain what is going on here so they will not just be walking around aimlessly."

He continued: "I don't think it will be too difficult to get them inside the tent to listen to the educators talk about the holiday."

But outside, the teens seemed content to

smoke their cigarettes and enjoy the day's festivities.

"I am very disappointed to see barbecues here," said Mihert. "I know the city council gave out licences for vendors to sell drinks and hot dogs. We want to stop that. We don't want this holiday to lose its relevancy and meaning."

While the Jerusalem happening was the main event, similar ceremonies took place in locations nationwide.

At the Yemin Orde Youth Village, young Ethiopian immigrants marked the festival with a procession, prayer services and a presentation depicting Ethiopian culture and customs. While more than half of the residents at the youth village are Ethiopian immigrants, the celebrations there are also aimed at teaching those from other backgrounds about the holiday.

"We'd like to eventually see Sigd become a national holiday, much like the Moroccan Memuna [celebrated the day after Pessah ends]," commented Masfin when asked whether the community welcomed the interest of mainstream Israelis.

"It is a daily battle to fit in with Israeli society and this would be a good way."

(© The Jerusalem Post)

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Building Jewish unity through learning

The Ottawa Jewish Unity Live Torah Study Project

By Rachel Sheffrin
What do Sigmund Freud, my grandmother and Rabbi Shokin all have in common? You don't need to have *smicha* [rabbinical ordination] to figure out the answer - they're all Jewish!

But what is it, beyond a simple label uniting the lives of such disparate characters and millions of others like, and very much unlike, them?

According to our tradition, it is the fact we all stood together at Sinai 3,000 years ago to receive the Torah. Indeed, even today, when Jewish affiliation takes so many different guises, most of these "denominations" define themselves in terms of the extent of their Torah observance or how they view the authorship of the Torah.

So, what better vehicle to celebrate Jewish unity than through a community-wide project of Torah study? Such is the purpose of Jewish Unity Live.

It sort of started less than two years ago, but really it began back in 1924, when Polish parliament member Rabbi Meir Shapiro instituted the *Daf Yomi* program, a system of a page-a-day Talmud study where all participants are literally on the same page and complete the entire *Shas* (all the volumes of the Talmud) in seven years.

A major celebration of the completion of one of these cycles took place on March 1, 2005. The celebration was the inspiration behind Jewish Unity Live, an outreach project, which unites Jews across North America in a common Torah-learning project, accessible to everyone regardless of their initial

level of Jewish knowledge. The only requirement is a desire to know, and that, according to organizers, is innate in every Jew.

Last year, more than 500 Ottawa residents participated in the event along with 11 other cities in Canada and the U.S. The project culminated in a celebration at the Canadian Museum of Nature.

This year's study project is the first chapter of *Pirkei Avot*, the Sayings of the Fathers. These are the great ethical teachings of the rabbis.

Chapter 1 includes Rabbi Hillel's famous dictum "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? And if I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?" (1:14) as well as Rabban Shimon Ben Gamliel's view of the world as enduring on three things: "justice, truth and peace" (1:18). No one could argue with that. More contentious, perhaps: "Do not become overly familiar with the government" (1:10), a provocative one for Ottawa!

I am unashamedly quoting out of context and with no commentary in the hope you will be sufficiently curious to find out for yourself what our great sages could have had in mind.

JET offers two classes at the SJCC. Rabbi Shokin's class on Tuesday mornings from 10:00 to 11:00 am is *Pirkei Avot: The History of Jewish Ethics*. Lauren Shaps' women's study class, *Pirkei Avot: Jewish Ethics*, is on Thursday mornings from 9:00 to 10:00 am. Both classes are free and run until late February. You can join in whenever you can.

Even the younger members of our community can get involved, from pre-school children to high school students, as they discuss and debate the message of *Pirkei Avot*.

In addition, private groups are forming. You can host one in your own home at a time and location more convenient to you or if you can't make it to one of the groups, you can still participate by learning the first chapter of *Pirkei Avot* on your own. Contact the JET office at the SJCC to get involved.

The climax of the study project will be another great celebratory event, this time at the National Library and Archives of Canada, on Monday night, March 26, 2007.

The guest speaker will be Rabbi Jonathan Rietti, an extremely brilliant and witty rabbi, who is a world-renowned lecturer from the Jewish outreach organization Gateways, followed by a musical performance to enhance the celebration.

Even if you do not participate in the study, you can attend this event and experience the joy and excitement of linking up with Jews across your own city and the whole of North America in a grand celebration of Jewish unity.

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Sarah Swedler launches new Torah program at Hillel Lodge

After seeing an article about a sefer Torah that is brought to patients' rooms at the Mount Sinai Hospital in Montreal, Sarah Swedler recognized the benefit this would have for residents at Hillel Lodge.

As quoted by the *Canadian Jewish News*, Montreal Rabbi Shoham says, "Touching the Torah makes even the most gravely ill feel they are

connected and cared for."

The Lodge already has a Torah, in the Abraham and Dora Lithwick Synagogue, small enough to be easily transported to the resident units.

The Torah was dedicated in memory of Naomi Bulka and the inclusion of this scroll, also adds a meaningful dimension to the program.

Pioneered by Swedler, this program would be the second of its kind in Canada.

Swedler hopes people will be inspired and volunteer to carry the Torah upstairs to the residents, especially to those who are unable to attend synagogue.

The program will be offered on Shabbat and the Jewish Holidays.

This is an opportunity

for people of all ages to perform this mitzvah.

For more information, contact Cheryl Cogan, co-ordinator of volunteers (613-728-3900, ext. 191 or cheryl@hillel-ltc.com).

Sarah Swedler inaugurates her Torah-carrying program for residents at Hillel Lodge.



Ladies Reception Committee hosts 100th newcomer tea!

The Ladies Reception Committee for Newcomers to Ottawa, which began when Beatrice Hock invited two new Jewish women to tea in 1956, celebrated its 100th tea at the home of Ethel Taylor.

Over 50 women attended, including a large group of newcomers, past committee members, as well as the current committee.

The tea was dedicated to the memory of Sheila Tanner, a long-time committee member who passed away this summer.

Pictured at right are the current and past committee members, accompanied by

Dahlia Baker (front row, centre), wife of Israeli Ambassador Alan Baker. She not only brought greetings from the Israeli Embassy, but also attended as a "newcomer."

The teas are held twice a year, in the fall and spring. Connections made at past teas have led to friendships, new jobs, finding long-lost cousins and even some "shiduchs."

If you know of any Jewish women new to the Ottawa area, contact Committee Chair Sarah Silverstein (613-823-9674) and the committee will be sure to invite them to its next tea!



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SAVE THE DATE!

With all the rain we have been having lately and thoughts of winter upon us, the last thing on your mind is probably GOLF. But the Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation knows you won't want to miss this first-ever golf tournament.

Mark your calendars for June 11, 2007. The Cancer Foundation will be hosting a nine-hole tournament at the newly renovated Rideau View Golf and Country Club. This could be your first opportunity to see the wonderful changes to the Country Club while helping cancer patient in our region.

Funds generated from this tournament will be used to purchase an ultrasound unit for the Ottawa Hospital Regional Cancer Centre. This vital piece of equipment will be used to assist nurses with the insertion of catheter lines in patients requiring chemotherapy. Currently PICCs (peripherally inserted central catheter) are inserted by a nurse, using "feel" followed by an x-ray to ensure it is inserted properly. The procedure can take up to three hours of a patient's and nurse's time. This ultrasound unit will reduce the amount of time this procedure takes, increasing staff's productivity and the number of PICC insertions that can be done in one day. This technology is more accurate and comfortable for the patient and will reduce the amount of time they must remain at the Centre.

The nine-hole tournament will commence with a 4:00 pm shotgun start and will include dinner and a silent auction.

**For more information please contact Peter Hamer
at the Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation
by calling 737-7700 ext. 70028 or by emailing phamer@ottawacancer.ca**

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16 • 7:00 - 8:30 PM
Soloway JCC Gym • \$5/child 2-12 years
Adults Free • Tickets sold at the door

MENORAH LIGHTING 7 PM • ISRAELI & CHANUKAH CRAFTS & GAMES
GIANT SLIDE & MOON BOUNCER • SUMMER CAMP VIDEO
LATKES AND DONUTS • TEEN DANCE BEGINS AT 8:30 PM

For more information contact Maxine Miska at
mmiska@jccottawa.com or 613-798-9818 ext 263.



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Recognize Soloway JCC Volunteers and Leaders

THE BEN KARP SOLOWAY JCC VOLUNTEER SERVICE

AWARD: Presented by the Ben Karp Family and the Soloway JCC who best exemplifies communal concern, and sets an ongoing example for others. Their true benevolence endures forever.

GROSSMAN-KLEIN TEEN LEADERSHIP AWARD: Presented by the Grossman-Klein Family and the Soloway JCC to one male and one female youth who have shown outstanding dedication and service to the Jewish Community throughout their teenage years.

Nominations must be submitted to the selection committee by Wednesday, December 20, 2006 and should include a resume of the nominee's involvement in the Soloway JCC and the Jewish Community. Address nominations to the Soloway JCC Ben Karp Award Selection Committee or the Grossman-Klein Family Youth Award - Selection Committee, 21 NadoIny Sachs Private, Ottawa, Ontario K2A 1R9, Attention: Jodie Gencher - Executive Assistant, jgencher@jccottawa.com.

Awards will be presented at the Soloway JCC Annual Meeting and Awards Night • Tuesday, February 13, 2007 at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre

SOLOWAY JCC

inspiring jewish journeys



THE FLORENCE MELTON SCHOOL OF OTTAWA GRADUATE PROGRAM

**WELCOMES ADULT LEARNERS TO TAKE A 10 WEEK
CLASS DEVELOPED BY HEBREW UNIVERSITY**

Israeli Society Through Israeli Literature
Monday 8:00-9:00pm
December 4-February 19

Instructor: Rabbi Steven Garten

Location: The Soloway JCC

Cost: \$100 Soloway JCC members \$125 non-members

This course uses Israeli poetry and prose in translation as a window on the development of Israeli culture and society. The curriculum covers such topics as immigration, the Shoah, Israel's wars, women writers and the Zionism dream as it constantly evolved

For more information contact Maxine Miska at
mmiska@jccottawa.com or 613-798-9818 ext 263.

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inspiring new experiences



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(Pirkei Avot)

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DECEMBER 13, 2007

The Zohar: Eating from the Tree of Life (Focus on Kabbalah)

Rabbi Dr. Justin Jaron Lewis (Director, Queen's University Jewish Studies program, Rabbi, Congregation Iyr Hamelech)

JANUARY 10, 2007

Tanya: Learning from Kabbalah and Jewish Mysticism.

Rabbi Mordechai Berger (Rabbi, Young Israel of Ottawa, Dean, Yeshivas Ateres Menachem)

FEBRUARY 21, 2007

You Can Go Home Again: Modern Jewish literary analysis of Kings I: 19. Rabbi Dr. Jeremiah Unterman (Director of Education, Hillel Academy)

MARCH 7, 2007

The Torah's Most Ancient Interpreters. Dr. James Kugel. (Professor of Bible, Bar-Ilan University, Israel. Former professor of Hebrew Literature, Harvard University)

APRIL 18, 2007

Kli Yakar - A Precious Jewel in the Sands of Time. Rabbi Howard Finkelstein (Rabbi, Beth-Shalom West Synagogue)

MAY 7, 2007

Philo - the Life and Ideas of a Second Century Jewish Biblical Interpreter. Dr. Adele Reinhartz (Associate Vice-President Research, University of Ottawa).

JUNE 13, 2007

Dr. Ian Kagedan (Lecturers, Ottawa Melton School)
(Topic to be announced)



All lectures are taking place at 7:30 pm. For more information please, call 613- 261-2498 or visit <http://ottawa.planitjewish.com>
Price for Members of the Soloway JCC and the Ottawa College of Jewish Studies: \$7 / Non-Members: \$9 / Students: \$5

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THE CHAIR AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SOLOWAY JCC INVITE YOU TO ATTEND THE

ANNUAL MEETING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2007 • 7:00 PM

Nathan, David & Max Zelikovitz Families • Social Hall A
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R.S.V.P Jodie Gencher at (613) 798-9818 ext. 221 or jgencher@jccottawa.com



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WINTER SESSION NEW ADULT PROGRAMS

JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN CANADA - MINI COURSE

In this course, Professor Rebecca Margolis, Ph.D., Assistant Professor with the Vered Jewish Canadian studies program at the University of Ottawa, will examine six different Jewish communities in Canada.

Wednesday evenings - 7:00pm - 8:30pm
February 21st - March 28th.

WATERCOLOR CLASS

John Sadler, Art Instructor with the Ottawa School of Art from 1970 to today, gives this introduction to painting with watercolors.

Thursday afternoons - 1:15pm - 3:30pm
January 25th - March 22nd.

DRAWING FOR BEGINNERS

Teacher Nicole Geoffrey teaches black and white drawing techniques and proper pencil use. Max. 10 registrants

Wednesday afternoons - 1:30pm - 3:30pm
January 10 - February 28th.

TWO WEEK SCULPTING WORKSHOP

Erika Connor, painter and teacher with the Ottawa School of Art, shows you how to create the human form using clay.

Tuesday afternoons - 1:15pm - 3:30pm
January 16th and 23rd.

MASK MAKING

Masks are not for Purim alone. Come and experience this unique art form.

Thursday afternoons - 1:15pm - 3:30pm
January 11th and 18th.

CALLIGRAPHY

Learn the art of calligraphy or "beautiful writing". Given by Richard Draffin, President of the Calligraphy society of Ottawa, the course will introduce students to letter formation (using the foundation alphabet), pen and ink and some history of writing.

Monday mornings - 9:30am - 11:00am
January 15th - January 29th.

BASIC INTRODUCTION TO HEBREW

Starting from scratch? Join this class for an introduction to the Aleph-Bet, some useful vocabulary and basic grammar skills. Instructor: Shirley Schildkraut.

Wednesday evenings - 7:00pm - 8:30pm
February 7th - March 14th.

GOLF SEMINAR WITH AL HARVEY

Join Pro Trainer Al Harvey as he goes over the fundamentals of golf for Beginner and Intermediate players (B5+). The links.

Tuesday evening - 7:30pm - 8:30pm
January 16th.

WHAT'S COOKING WITH RICKI? SUMPTUOUS SPRING LUNCHEON

Learn how to make a delectable Squash Soup, Mediterranean Pie, Crustless Quiche, Chocolate Terrine and more. The best part will be partaking of these delicious offerings when the cooking is finished. Register early to avoid disappointment. Maximum 12.

Monday afternoon - 10:00am - 1:00pm
March 12th.

Registration for members starts - Sunday, December 10 - 9:00 am - Registration for non-members starts Sunday, December 17 - 9:00 am

For Registration please contact 613-798-9818 ext. 295

For further course details please contact Roslyn Wollock, Soloway JCC Adult Program Manager at 798-9818 ext. 254.

SOLOWAY JCC

inspiring healthy living



TEEN POWER YOGA

Learn a series of postures and exercises that elevate your heart rate while strengthening your body.

January 11 - March 8 - 9 weeks
Thursday - 7:15 - 8:15 pm - Age: 13-19
\$60 Members / \$90 Non Members

INDOOR GOLF FOR WOMEN

January 11 - March 8 - 9 weeks
Thursday - 7:15 - 8:15 pm - Age: 18+
\$225 Members / \$300 Non Members
Lessons take place at Bent Grass facility, 150 Robertson road, Bells Corners (Nepean). Instructor: Joe - Certified CPGA teaching professional and IV coaching certification.

YOGILATES

This new class takes the best of yoga with the best of pilates for a highly effective workout that will leave you lean and flexible.

January 11 - March 8 - 9 weeks
Thursday - 7:15 - 8:15 pm - Age: 18+
\$80 Members / \$100 Non Members

ISRAELI DANCE

Learn the steps of Israeli dance in a fun and simple way. This class teaches the basic steps of Israeli dance in a short time.

January 10 - March 7 - 9 weeks
Wednesday - 7:30 - 8:30 pm - Age: 18+
\$70 Members / \$100 Non Members

SPRING BREAK BIKINI BOOT CAMP

Whip your body into shape with a mix of all the best workouts including pilates, strength training, stability ball, core conditioning, cardio and flexibility plus a nutrition sheet to follow for the month.

February 2 - 28 - 12 classes
Monday, Wednesday and Friday
8:30 - 9:30 am - Age: 16+
\$75 Members / \$105 Non Members

SENSATIONAL SAMPLER

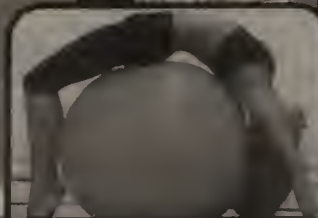
An optimal fitness experience for your body and mind, this exciting new class is a six week program offering a variety of workouts including yoga, pilates, core stability ball, strengthball, resistance training and spinfit.

January 11 - February 15 - 6 weeks
Thursday - 6:00 - 7:00 pm - Age: 16+
\$45 Members / \$75 Non Members

WATER WALKING

This gentle progressive class is designed to strengthen your core and leg muscles as well as helping improve balance in the water.

January 11 - February 15 - 6 weeks
Monday - 6:00 - 7:00 pm - Age: 16+
\$45 Members / \$75 Non Members



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT CARLA GENCHER AT 613-798-9818

EMAIL: CGENCHER@JCCOTTAWA.COM



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Ecole Benlolo School

MONDAY DECEMBER 18 • 6 PM
Temple Israel Religious School

TUESDAY DECEMBER 19 • 4:30 PM
Talmud Torah
Afternoon Hebrew School

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 20 • 4 PM
Yitzhak Rabin High School

THURSDAY DECEMBER 21 • 4 PM
Tamiir

FRIDAY DECEMBER 22 • 1:30 PM
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EVERYONE IS WELCOME

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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AT 613-798-9818 EXT. 221 or
JGENCHER@JCCOTTAWA.COM



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Card donations go a long way to improving the quality of life for our residents. Thank you for considering their needs and contributing to their well-being.

On behalf of the residents and their families, we extend sincere appreciation to the following individuals and families who made card donations to the Hillel Lodge Long-Term Care Foundation between November 1 and November 15, 2006 inclusive.

HONOUR FUNDS

Unlike a bequest or gift of life insurance, which are realized some time in the future, a named Honour Fund (i.e., endowment fund) is established during your lifetime.

By making a contribution of \$1,000 or more, you can create a permanent remembrance for a loved one, honour a family member, declare what the Lodge has meant to you and/or support a cause that you believe in.

A Hillel Lodge Honour Fund is a permanent pool of capital that earns interest or income each year. This income then supports the priorities designated by you, the donor.

Leona Adler Memorial Fund

In Honour of:

Elena and Roger Keen Best wishes on your 40th wedding anniversary by Elaine Adler, Farley Stenzler and Family.

Sonia Rawicki Agulnik

Music Therapy Fund

In Memory of:

Sally Presement by Paula and Manny Agulnik.

In Honour of:

Dorothy and Leslie Martin Mazal Tov and all the best on your special anniversary by Paula and Manny Agulnik.

Tania Firestone Family Fund

In Memory of:

Barry Koffman by Susan Caplan Firestone and Phil Firestone.

Nell Gluck Memorial Fund

In Honour of:

Yanda Max Mazal Tov and welcome to the decade of those of us who are already there. Happy Birthday and our wishes for many, many more by Maureen and Henry Molot.

Evelyn and Irving Greenberg Family Fund

In Memory of:

Faga Gardner by Gert Budovitch.

In Honour of:

Evelyn Greenberg Thank you for your support of me and my singing projects. I could not do it without you by Ophira Calof.

David, Harvey, Victor Kardish

Family Fund

In Memory of:

Barry Koffman by Rose and Kevin Kardash.

Lillian and Morris Kimmel Family Fund

In Memory of:

Lillian Kimmel by Diana and Alvin Malomet.

Evelyn Popky by Janet, Steve, Tobin and Aaron Kaiman.

Max Williams by Brenda, Nathan, Jesse and Daniel Levine.

In Honour of:

Lillian Feig Mazal Tov on the Bat Mitzvah of your granddaughter Adina by Brenda, Nathan, Jesse and Daniel Levine.

Morris Kimmel Wishing you good health and happiness and an enjoyable winter down south by Roz and Myles Taller.

Stephen and Debra Schneiderman

Family Fund

In Memory of:

Hy Caplan by Debra, Stephen, Stacey and Jordan Schneiderman.

Sylvia Van Straten Kaufman by Debra and Stephen Schneiderman.

Ralph and Anne Sternberg

Memorial Fund

In Memory of:

Donna Pantalone by Laya & Ted Jacobsen.

Harvey Slipacoff Happy Birthday, warmest wishes and welcome home from Israel by Laya and Ted Jacobsen.

Sarah and Arnie Swedler Family Fund

In Honour of:

Cantor Daniel and Mrs. Muriel Benlolo With thanks and appreciation for the invitation to Shabbat dinner by Sarah and Arnie Swedler.

Evelyn Greenberg Thank you for a lovely lunch. Stay well by Sarah Swedler.

Amnon Hameiri For a complete and speedy recovery by Sarah and Arnie Swedler.

Sheila and Larry Hartman Mazal Tov on the birth of your granddaughter. We are so happy for you by Sarah and Arnie Swedler.

Mary-Belle and Gerald Pulvermacher

Mazal Tov and best wishes on the birth of your grandsons. Our thoughts are with you by Sarah and Arnie Swedler.

Edith Teitelbaum and Eddie Zinman Memorial Fund

In Memory of:

Faga Gardner by Fuzzy and Max Teitelbaum.

Margaret Gormley by Fuzzy and Max Teitelbaum.

In Honour of:

Faigel and Leonard Shapiro Mazal Tov and best wishes on your anniversary by Fuzzy and Max Teitelbaum.

Neil Teitelbaum Mazal Tov on your move. We wish you great success by Fuzzy and Max Teitelbaum.

R'fuah Shlema:

Henry Bloom by Fuzzy and Max Teitelbaum.

Eric Weiner and Arlene Godfrey

Family Fund

In Honour of:

Carol and Larry Gradus Happy Anniversary by Arlene Godfrey, Eric, Melissa and Laura Weiner.

The Residents Feeding Program

In Memory of:

Barry Koffman by Sylvia and Bert Bronsther; and Patricia Guthrie.

IN MEMORY OF:

Lila Bookman by Shirley and Al Cohen.

Dr. Michel Capelle by the Vered Family and Arnon Corporation; and Tom West.

Stuart Edey by Roz and Stan Labow.

Lawrence Freedman by Shirley and Al Cohen.

Faga Gardner by Ruth and Irving Aaron.

Mervin Ginsburg by Ruth and Irving Aaron.

Barry Koffman by Shirley and Al Cohen; and Sylvia Monson.

David Kolker by Mara and Isaac Muzikansky.

Fania Muzikansky by Mara and Isaac Muzikansky.

Abraham Sher by Beverly and Irving Swedko.

To commemorate the Yahrzeit of our beloved Mother Fanny Friedberg by Elaine Friedberg and Bob Dale.

IN HONOUR OF:

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Opportunity to study Kabbalah with Ottawa College of Jewish Studies

By Ari Goldberg

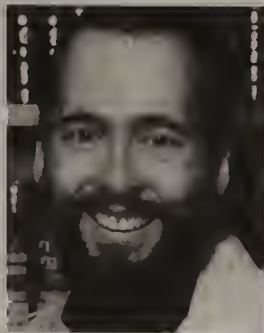
Despite a recent upsurge of interest, opportunities to study Kabbalah with expert teachers remain rare.

That is about to change, thanks to two upcoming lectures at the College of Jewish Studies. Participants will be introduced to some of the Kabbalah's profound insights into human psychology and spirituality.

On December 13, Rabbi Dr. Justin Lewis will speak on "The Zohar: Eating from the Tree of Life." The central book of Kabbalah, the Zohar (radiance) is a mystical Torah commentary, which explores such questions as the nature of God, the origin of the universe and the essence of the soul.

Rabbi Lewis observes, "reading the Zohar is entering a dream world where boundaries shift and dissolve, an exploration of the self and of reality itself which can be both disturbing and exhilarating ... it challenges our most basic assumptions about Judaism and is a resource for our own questing and creativity."

The head of the Jewish studies department at Queen's University, Rabbi Lewis serves as spiritual leader of Kingston's liberal congregation,



Rabbi Dr. Justin Lewis

Kehillat Iyr HaMelech. A gifted teacher, he has presented several outstanding Shabbatons and workshops in Ottawa, remembered for their blend of academic insight and spiritual depth.

Rabbi Lewis' lecture is co-sponsored by congregations Adath Shalom and Temple Israel.

On January 18, Rabbi Mordechai Berger will lecture on "The Tanya: Gleaning from Kabbalah and Mysticism."

Rabbi Berger describes the Tanya,

the central text of Chabad Hasidism, as "an in-depth analysis of the human soul and the world of spirituality."

The Tanya seeks to demonstrate to the average Jew that knowledge of God is accessible and spiritual growth is realizable, if a person is willing to engage in the struggle for it.

A highly regarded educator, rabbi and public speaker, Rabbi Berger is the longtime spiritual leader of Young Israel of Ottawa, the founder of École Maimonides and the founder and current dean of Yeshivas Ateres Menachem. He has been teaching Kabbalah and Jewish philosophy locally and internationally for more than three decades.

Both events take place at 7:00 pm. in Social Hall A of the Soloway Jewish Community Centre. The cost is \$5 for students or seniors, \$7 for members of the SJCC or the College of Jewish Studies and \$9 for non-members. No reservations are required.

Six lectures (including Rabbi Berger's) will happen monthly during 2007 as part of the College's *Great Torah Commentators and Teachers series*.

For a schedule and information about a discounted price for the entire series, call 613-261-2498.

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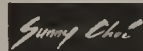
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Temple Israel celebrates through study

Temple Israel, the first Ottawa congregation to accord women full ritual rights, is enhancing its 40th anniversary celebration with two outstanding guest scholars.

Professor Harold Troper, University of Toronto, will be delivering four lectures.

Each lecture will highlight issues that Canadian Jewry faced in the four decades of Temple Israel's existence.

The first lecture, held on November 19th, was an exploration of the impact of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war on Canadian Jews.

The next lecture in January will focus on the impact of Trudeau's multicultural policies on Jewish life in Canada.

On December 12 and 13, Professor Rachael Turkienicz will be the second 40th anniversary scholar-in-residence.

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DECEMBER 12 at 7:30 pm

Trusting Women with the Moon:

Women's Spirituality and the Jewish Response

DECEMBER 13 at noon

Hillel and Shammai: Jewish Pluralism from the Ancient World

DECEMBER 13 at 7:30 pm

The Women of Hannukah: Unsung Heroes

The public is welcome to join the congregation for any and all these outstanding opportunities for Jewish learning.

Information is available on the Temple website, www.templeisraelottawa.ca,

or by calling the Temple office, 613-224-1802



Dr. Rachael Turkienicz, a professor at York University, has a doctorate in Talmud and Midrash and is a founding director at The Toronto Heschel School. She is the director of The Learning Centre, a centre for the study of Jewish text.

Jalapeño-Cheese Latkes

I discovered this recipe when I googled "Cheese Latkes." This recipe comes from the web site, www.dailypundit.com. I have reduced the amount of spicy heat from the original recipe as I do not like heat to the point of pain. These are pleasantly hot and will only get you sweating mildly. All grated items in this recipe should be done on the large holes of a box grater, with the exception of the Parmesan cheese, which should be finely grated.

Makes about 16 small latkes

- 4 medium-large potatoes, peeled and grated
- 1 large carrot, peeled and grated
- 1 large onion, peeled and grated
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 tsp ground black pepper
- 1 jalapeño peppers, seeded, finely minced
- 2 ounces shredded Monterey Jack or Sharp Cheddar cheese
- 2 ounces finely grated Parmesan cheese
- tiny pinch of chili flakes
- 1/2 - 1 teaspoon hot pepper sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 4 teaspoon flour
- 2 large eggs, beaten

Grate the potatoes, carrot and onion into a large bowl. Add salt and ground black pepper, mix well and place in the fridge for 15-20 minutes. A really surprising amount of liquid will come out. Using a clean cloth or kitchen towel, squeeze this liquid out and drain thoroughly. Return to fridge for 15-20 minutes more.

Drain liquid again, and add the minced jalapeño, Cheddar and Parmesan cheeses, chili flakes, hot pepper sauce, baking powder, flour and eggs and mix well.

Heat a large skillet over medium high heat. Fill skillet with vegetable oil to about 1/4" depth. Working in batches, drop batter by heaping tablespoonfuls into skillet. About five at a time will fit in a 10" skillet. Cook 3-4 minutes each side until golden brown. Drain over paper towels and serve.

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Latkes to lose your head over

Most of us are familiar with the custom of eating fried foods on Chanukah. After the Maccabees defeated Antiochus of Syria, they cleansed and rededicated the Temple. When they went to light the menorah, they only had enough sacred oil to last one day, or so they thought. Instead, a miracle occurred and the one day's supply lasted eight.

Fewer people are familiar with the custom of eating cheese pancakes and other cheese treats on Chanukah. This tradition dates back to the Middle Ages and is related to the story of Judith, the daughter of a Hasmonean.

According to legend, she served a savory cheesecake to the Assyrian General Holofernes. The cheesecake was so salty he became very thirsty and proceeded to drink copious quantities of wine. He became drunk and passed out. Judith beheaded the sleeping general and became a hero-



Made with Love

Cindy Feingold

ine, saving the Jewish people from an Assyrian slaughter.

Here are two cheese latke recipes to try. The Farmer's Cheese Latkes would be an excellent choice for a Chanukah brunch party. The Jalapeño-Cheese Latkes would be terrific served as hors d'oeuvres for an evening party.

Farmer's Cheese Latkes

Makes about 16 latkes

This is an adaptation of a similar recipe I found in the December 2001 issue of *Bon Appetit Magazine*. Farmer's cheese is also called pressed cottage cheese and can be found in the dairy aisle at the supermarket. Western Dairy is a good brand to look for. It is fantastic served with the Cherry-Apple Sauce recipe below.

- 1 pound farmer's cheese (pressed cottage cheese)
- 2 tablespoons cream cheese, room temperature
- 4 large eggs, separated
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/4 cup all purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons (packed) golden brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons (about) unsalted butter
- 3 tablespoons (about) vegetable oil

Blend farmer's cheese, cream cheese, egg yolks and vanilla extract in processor just until smooth, about 30 seconds. Add flour, sugar and salt and mix in, using on/off turns, just until blended. Transfer batter to large bowl.

Using electric mixer, beat egg whites in large bowl until stiff but not dry. Gently fold whites into batter in 3 additions.

Melt 1 tablespoon butter with 1 tablespoon oil in heavy large non-stick skillet over medium heat until hot but not smoking. Working in batches, drop batter by heaping tablespoonfuls into skillet and spread to 2 1/2-inch rounds. Cook until golden, about 1 1/2 minutes per side. Using slotted spatula, transfer latkes to plates. Add more butter and oil as necessary and allow to get hot before adding more batter. Serve immediately, with Cherry-Apple Sauce.

Cherry-Apple Sauce

- 5 Gala or Golden Delicious apples (about 2 pounds), peeled, cored, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- 1/4 cup unsweetened apple juice
- 1/4 cup dried tart cherries
- 1/4 cup cherry jam

Combine apple pieces and unsweetened apple juice and dried cherries in heavy large saucepan. Bring to boil,

stirring occasionally. Cover, reduce heat to low and simmer until apples are very tender, stirring occasionally, about 15 minutes.

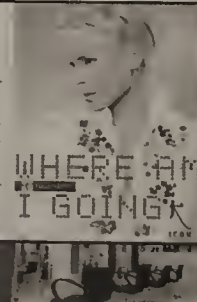
Remove from heat. Mix in cherry jam. Using potato masher or fork, mash mixture to chunky purée. Sauce can be prepared up to two days ahead. Cover and refrigerate. Serve hot or cold.

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Chanukah books for kids of all ages

Whether non-fiction or fiction, fun is the order of the day in this year's wondrous melange of Chanukah books.

*Four Sides, Eight Nights
A New Spin On Hanukkah*
By Rebecca Tova Ben-Zvi
Illustrated by Susanna Natti
Roaring Brook Press 2005
48 pp. Ages 8 - 12

Years ago, *Four Sides, Eight Nights: A New Spin On Hanukkah* would likely have been titled "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Dreidels But Were Afraid to Ask."

To say that this 2005 Association of Jewish Libraries Notable Book is clever, innovative and comprehensive is insufficient. One must add stylistically it is post-modern in the best sense of the term. The book is fresh, lively, creative, informative, inclusive and so very funny. And, oh yes, so full of its subject to take the concept of self-referential to new heights.

Four Sides, Eight Nights is also a sparkling partnership of author and illustrator. Playful black and white sketches seamlessly and brilliantly enhance the intriguing scientific and historical facts, legends and songs.

Starting with a brother and sister saying what they like best about Chanukah, in eight short chapters the book gallops through the story of Chanukah, the origins and history of the dreidel, rules of the dreidel game, the origin of the dreidel song, materials used to make dreidels, the stories of Judith and two heroine Hannahs, dreidel science, Chanukah food, eight does and don'ts, and gifts.

Amusingly offbeat, *Four Sides, Eight Nights: A New Spin On Hanukkah* is, quite simply, a must read, share and read again and again factual, funny book.

The Eight Nights of Chanukah
By Leslea Newman

Illustrated by Elvira Savadier
Harry N. Abrams, Inc., Publishers 2005
Unpaged. Ages 3 - 6

Written as a cumulative poem, Leslea Newman's *The Eight Nights of Chanukah* is a playful romp through each night of

the holiday. As a young girl describes the chaos and fun that is Chanukah in her home, the action and number of people in the lively, colourful illustrations increase nightly. There is always a gift for every child in the room and lots of items and/or people for counting.

Although young children will probably not be aware of this, I must caution that some



From *Four Sides, Eight Nights*

adults may be uncomfortable with the similarity in rhythm between *The Eight Nights of Chanukah* and *The Eight Days of Christmas*, especially if they sing the words. Still, the book's enthusiasm, fun and family togetherness will capture many a young heart.

The Ziz and the Hanukkah Miracle
By Jacqueline Jules

Illustrated by Katherine Janus Kahn
Kar-Ben Publishing 2006
Unpaged. Ages 3 - 7

Fans of the Ziz – that child-like, clumsy, well-meaning, gigantic King of the Birds who talks directly with God – will welcome this third book in the series. In the previous books, the Ziz learned to say he was sorry and to be careful about others. In *The Ziz and the Hanukkah Miracle*, he learns to share.



Kid Lit

Deanna Silverman

How is sharing related to Chanukah? Consider it an alternate explanation for that little jug of oil burning for eight days and nights. Perhaps it wasn't a miracle. Perhaps a reluctant, selfish Ziz had something to do with it with a little help from some mice and a major change of heart.

Humorous, gentle, and understated, *The Ziz and the Hanukkah Miracle* is a delightfully fanciful addition to Chanukah literature.

Eight Wild Nights
A Family Hanukkah Tale
By Brian P. Cleary

Illustrated by David Udovic
Kar-Ben Publishing 2006
Unpaged. Ages 5 - 10

When poet and humorist Brian Cleary decided to take on Chanukah, he sharpened his wit to its fastest, tongue-twisting best. The result: a young boy's description of a zany eight-day Chanukah gathering of family and friends in which nothing goes right.

But who cares?

Children would eagerly join this party. Latkes are topped with ice cream. Dreidel players turn to blackjack and poker. Grandpa's story of a Chanukah miracle involves T.P. (toilet paper). Aunt Helen's blintzes are a Maccabean test of courage. The gifts are a joke. The singing is always off key. And the candlelighting is *maybe not always in the right order*.

Hilarity and love are front and centre in the droll, tongue-in-cheek illustrations whose facial expressions alone are worth the price of admission. *Eight Wild Nights: A Family Hanukkah Tale* is a must for everyone needing a good belly laugh. As my late mother would have said, "Oy, a michiya!"

Happy Chanukah! May your celebrations be meaningful and joyous.

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My ever-changing neighbourhood of life

Howdy neighbour! I am supposed to love you as myself. Fortunately for you, I am not a self-hater, 'cause then where would you be?

And what is a "neighbour" anyway? Let us compare neighbourhoods.

The first neighbourhood I lived in, in Toronto was a downtown, Yiddish-speaking, immigrant community. For many years, we kept on going back there for rye bread, for kosher meat and fish, and to go to the "shiteblekh" and sometimes the large "Poylisher shul" for services. This latter was a large building, formerly an Eastern Orthodox Church, which had the crosses removed from the cupolas.

When the Jews moved from the neighbourhood, the building was re-sold to the Orthodox Church and the crosses were put back. Fortunately, people planned ahead in those days and the crosses were "screw-ins."

Most people were poor and spoke Yiddish.

When we lived with my great aunt in her small semi-detached house, our family of four lived in the attic. My aunt and her unmarried daughter lived in the front room, her son and his wife lived on the second floor and another daughter and her family of four lived temporarily in the dining room.

Now, the place where her house was, serves as a parking lot for delivery trucks for Silverstein's Bakery, and the only store to retain a trace of Yiddish lettering is a former candy shop, now a stylish and upscale café.

When we moved to Yonge Street to live above my



Humour me, please

Rubin Friedman

father's new tailor shop, my brother and I lived on a fold-out couch in the kitchen, my parents had one bedroom, the sitting room and another bedroom on the second floor were rented to an immigrant German family of three and a bedroom on the third floor was rented to an elderly "handyman" who spent most of his time in his room, smoking a pipe and drinking scotch.

When my wife and I had our own family, we forced two of our children to share a fairly large bedroom. They were bitter about this because they had no space.

The neighbourhood had clearly changed.

When I told my mother about this, she explained, in Poland, her father being a shoemaker, they could only afford one room, with a curtain across the front part where my grandfather had his workshop. The family of five lived behind the curtain and often had a few visitors who stayed for a few months until they found their own lodgings.

Every Friday night, my grandfather brought one or two

beggars home for Shabbos and they slept on the floor in the workshop area. There was no indoor plumbing and no running water. That is to say, "things can always be worse!"

In my neighbourhood on Yonge Street, there were people of many different ethnicities, religions, races and lifestyles. I got to know everyone, from the store owners to the welfare families to the denizens of houses of ill repute and all their children. It was like a miniature small town.

When I went back there recently, the neighbourhood contained almost no houses, but apartment blocks and townhouse condos. I couldn't spot even one child.

Where I live nowadays, either my neighbourhood is more uniform or I do not know people that well. I spend less time with the people who live around me than I do in virtual neighbourhoods. The worldwide web, you see, is like a global village.

So, if you are unhappy or just bored with the people who live around you, you can always make your own neighbourhood by joining a chat group. Just don't try to ask that person in Moscow to watch your house when you go on vacation. And watch out for all the global village idiots and rumour mongers who want to move in to your space.

Or you could do what I do every once in a while. Turn off your computer, turn off your television, put down the book. Then, like the bear who went over the mountain, go for a walk around the block and see what you can see.

Pump up the volume: our music pics

Cheyenne Kimball's The Day Has Come (Sony/BMG)

Cheyenne Kimball ... Not a Jew!

Our BBOY/USY readers may be familiar with Cheyenne, the star of her own reality MTV hit show. The reality show documented Cheyenne's musical journey as she launched her debut album. It showed the beautiful singer and the crazy life she lives. Cheyenne co-wrote her addictive songs with some help from Canadian music veterans Chantal Kreviazuk and husband Raine Maida, who also worked with Byron's dream girl Avril Lavigne. Off to an amazing start, Cheyenne's big songs include "Hanging on," "Four Walls," "Didn't I" and "Full Circle." With her talent, direction, drive and the "it" factor, she would make Cantor Aptowitzer proud. Now, all we need is Cheyenne to convert and the world would be perfect.

Angels and Airwaves' We Don't Need to Whisper (Geffen Records)

Angels and Airwaves ... not Jews!

We miss the groundbreaking Blink 182 and, while this might not be the answer to Blink's departure, their former front-man Tom Delonge is back with this highly ambitious project. The Angels and Airwaves album is thoughtful with a big sound, which made bands like Coldplay famous. Known for his catchy songs about dating girls and being as silly as a frat boy on stage, Tom is clearly capable of moving, dark and gorgeous music that would fit incredibly well with a film soundtrack about space or time travel. Songs include "Valkyrie Missile," "Distraction," "The Adventure" and "It Hurts." While no Liam Gallagher, Tom's voice fits perfectly with the band's big sound. The experience of hearing this album from start to finish is like watching a good movie, and worth taking a listen. **4 knishes out of 5.**

Paris Hilton's Paris (Warner Music)

Paris Hilton ... Not a Jew, but available for the night price to perform at Bar and Bat Mitzvahs.

We all know who Paris Hilton is. But what does she do? She created a career out of looking pretty, having famous friends and partying. We can now add 'musician' to her CV. Paris is kind of like the rich girl who has the best Bat Mitzvah,

hires a great band to play and gets up on stage to sing along. The talent comes from the band, not the little girl singing. While lacking talent and real musical ability, Paris was smart enough to hire very capable musicians around her to compensate. Album collaborators include real musicians from Fat Joe to Jadakiss. Paris doesn't really sing; it's more like soft whispering over really great beats. The album's best track is "Screwed," which will surely become a club favourite. But the album isn't a disaster, and you might even find yourself singing along. Just don't tell anyone. **3.5 knishes out of 5**

Beyonce's B'Day (Sony/BMG)

Beyonce ... Not a Jew! But we wish she was!

One of today's best artists, you don't get more beautiful or talented than Beyonce. The definition of a star, she mixes sounds of today (hip hop) and yesterday (soul to R&B). We wish we could claim Beyonce as Jewish! Now that's a nice girl to bring home to mom. Her latest album has some catchy high flying songs including "deja Vu" with a stunning duet with Jay Z. The album starts off strong and ends even stronger. It's the in-between part that struggles to find its inner voice (like when Paul sang his Haftarah). We still recommend this album because of the sick beats (Jewish mothers pay attention, sick is just slang for good!) and great vocals. **3.5 knishes out of 5**

George's Believe (MapleMusic)

George ... Not a Jew!

There's a new name hitting the pop and R&B world. Meet the newest sensation, George. His debut album, the first album to be released on former backstreet boy Howie Dorough's new label, is energetic, dancy and popish. More than another pop music pretty face, George's first single "Talk to Me" is a sentimental love song that is already becoming popular from heavy radio play. **4 knishes out of 5**

Stefy's The Orange Album (Wind Up Records/Warner)

Stefy ... Not a Jew!

Get ready for the next big pop band this year. Meet Stefy Rae, the lead singer of the breakout new band from Orange



Paul Telner



Byron Pascoe

Have a Knish

County. Stefy's sound is energetic, fun, dancy, poppy but not stupid. Songs to watch for include the sad and topical song "Orange County" to Paul's personal favourite "Orange Crush." **4 knishes out of 5**

Justin Timberlake's FutureSex/LoveSounds (Sony/BMG)

Justin Timberlake ... Do we even have to say it?

Yes, we are guilty of dancing at JSA events to Justin Timberlake. Love or despise him, it's hard to disregard his talent and musical ability. He is a great performer, can create club anthems and has old-fashioned charm while making girls shake their booty's in clubs worldwide. With great beats and hooks, JT's latest has a refreshing sexy futuristic sound. Young knish, cover your ears, this album is much more mature than previous projects. With such songs as the massive hit "SexyBack," "Sexy Ladies" and the catchy and funky "LoveStoned," and with a great mix of hip hop, funk, soul and R&B every step of the way, this album is well written and produced. Let's hope they play this at some upcoming Jewish singles nights. These songs could possibly put an end to the single epidemic in the Ottawa Jewish community once and for all. **4 knishes out of 5**

Soloway Community Centre Official Soundtrack (LLB Records)

We all go to the SJCC. Now, take home the official soundtrack! With hits like "How Can I Get a Discount on Membership?" "Old Naked Jewish Men Scare Me" and "I Hate Those Knish Guys," and with a special guest appearance from Justin Timberlake, singing for the first time, "My Sexy Back Hurts!," this album is sure to please! **5 out of 5 Knishes**

To reach Paul & Byron e-mail haveaknish@hotmail.com.

Books to help you enjoy Chanukah

With the holiday almost upon us, it's beginning to look a lot like ... I mean, some of us are beginning to think about family celebrations. Here are two books to help you enhance yours.

Hanukkah: The Family Guide to Spiritual Celebration (2nd edition)

By Dr. Ron Wolfson; edited by Joel Lurie Grishaver
Jewish Lights Publishing (A Project of the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs & the University of Judaism)
Softcover, 2001

Chanukah has become one of the most observed of our Jewish holidays, apparently. Maybe because its bright holiday cheer casts light in the cold dark of winter. Maybe because it's geared to children. Maybe because its blessings are short and sweet, and therefore easy to observe. Or maybe just because it's so much fun.

Yet it's certainly not without meaning and its relevance today resonates even louder than ever: the fight for freedom of religion and, as Wolfson puts it, for "the right to be different." It's a message that kind of gets lost in the holiday's accoutrements.

Every Jewish family has its own way of recognizing Chanukah, whether it's in the giving of gifts, the playing of dreidels or the making of holiday favourites such as potato latkes and *soufganiyot* (deep-fried doughnuts).

In our house, it means baking dreidel- and Menorah-shaped Chanukah cookies and playing with the dreidels collected over the years (even my own from childhood, the letters now worn and faded).

Wolfson's book offers ideas for family traditions you can adopt as your own.

You can count on Wolfson to make Jewish holidays accessible. His books on Passover and Shabbat have become family resources, and it's because the educator understands the diversity within Jewish communities everywhere.

Wolfson includes, in this text, the personal reflections of people with varied Jewish upbringings talking about what Chanukah has meant to them. Their voices are heard in the various sections of the book, from Part I, which tells you everything you need to know about Chanukah, its candle-lighting practices and blessings, the story of Chanukah, the songs and games (and rules on playing) and food connected with this holiday; through to Part II, which is devoted to the influence of Christmas on Chanukah, and interfaith quandaries. (The Hebrew, together with the transliteration and translation, is provided for each prayer and song.)

Wolfson acknowledges observing Chanukah can be difficult. He grew up in an almost non-Jewish neighbourhood in Omaha. Over time, this favourite Jewish holiday has adopted a commercialization all its own with the influence of Christmas, so that many Jewish families have added gift-giving to their family traditions. Wolfson has devoted an entire chapter to this – the December dilemma. He answers questions about Chanukah observances (e.g., is there any requirement that a man or a woman light the candles?) and offers food for thought and actual recipes.



Book Beat

Kinneret Globerman

The Big Book of Jewish Humour
Edited and annotated by William Novak & Moshe Waldoks
Collins/HarperCollins
Softcover, 2006

Oh boy, it's been 25 years since *The Big Book of Jewish Humour* was first published! And guess how many languages it's been published in since? Actually only one. And you won't believe which one. No, not Hebrew. It's actually been translated into German. Who woulda thunk it?

Even if you read the 1981 edition, you'll still find this re-issue entertaining. The editors have added new jokes, recognizing the influence of contemporary comedy shows like Larry David's "Curb Your Enthusiasm" and "Da Ali G Show" with Sacha Baron Cohen (of the new *Borat* movie), South Park, the Simpsons, and the Jon Stewart show. Adam Sandler is noted for his Chanukah song, which apparently got its debut on "Saturday Night Live" back in 1994. Even Rabbi Joseph Telushkin and his 1992 *Book of Jewish Humour* and Michael Wex and his very recent book on Yiddish, *Born to Kvetch*, get honorary mentions.

This is a great book for entertaining the family on a Chanukah eve or just entertaining yourself. You'll find stories by authors like Bernard Malamud and Sholom Aleichem, monologues by Lenny Bruce and jokes by Alan Sherman (remember them?), curses, drawings, and lots of laughs. Here's a taste:

Rabbi Helmreich was greeting his congregants after Shabbat services when a woman came up to him in tears.

"What's the matter?" he asks her. "Is anything wrong?"

"Yes! My husband is dead."

"That's terrible," he says. "Did he have any final requests?"

"Actually, he did. He said to me, 'Janet, please put down the gun!'"

At the Greenberg Families Library:

The Ottawa Jewish Film Society screens *Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi* on Sunday, December 17 at 2:00 pm.

Shlomi is a 16-year-old boy attempting to keep peace in his dysfunctional working-class family. Feeling unloved by his mother and alone at school, he overcompensates by helping others and neglecting his own unique talents. This Israeli comedy is directed by Shemi Zarhin.

Open to all SJCC members and library members at no charge.

For more information, call the library (613-738-9818, ext. 245).

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VOLUNTEER CORNER

Volunteer Corner is courtesy of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa. All beneficiary agencies are invited to list their volunteer opportunities.

Volunteer Opportunities

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

Can you find it in your heart to help?

• **MORE DRIVERS** are required to help seniors get to their medical appointments. If you can even offer a couple of hours a month, please call.

• **Have Kasher Food**, need driver who will deliver food. Weekly or monthly. Your choice. Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays.

• **Orleans area mid-aged lady**, who lives in a residence, would love a connection with the Jewish community ... Could you visit a couple of times a month?

• **GUTTEN TOG PROGRAM** ... connect with a senior who lives in a long-term care facility. Visit once a week, once a month!

• Interested in going out for a coffee/chat and/or playing *Gin Rummy* with a Yiddish- or French-speaking gentleman recently back in Canada? Gregarious, outgoing and lives in Craig Henry. Great opportunity to practise another language.

• Could you accompany/drive a **Walkey** area senior who loves movies, bingo and other outings? Afternoons/evenings would work for her.

• The **Shalom Bayit Program** (to prevent violence against Jewish women) is currently seeking volunteers to sit on its Committee and Special Events Sub-Committee. Interested? Please contact Stacey Segal at 613-722-2225, ext. 323.

• **Senior female living in Centrepoin** needs regular volunteer to help with groceries at Loblaws. Either Thursdays or Fridays.

• **Alta Vista area senior female** would be thrilled with a reliable person who could take her out of her four walls once a week.

Please call Bev Grostern at 722-2225, # 304

THE BESS AND MOE GREENBERG FAMILY HILLEL LODGE

Make the Lodge feel like home!

• **New Torah program** requires volunteers ... Be part of a new *Mitzvah* program bringing the Torah to the residents. Scheduled for Fridays and the Jewish Holidays. Call for further information.

• **Our Recreation Department is short of needed help** ...

Duties include: accompany residents to and from programs, assist during programs (i.e. hand out refreshments, help residents participate, help with set-up; be a friendly visitor, making someone's day a little more special! Activities include: performances, bingo, baking, birthday parties, lectures, outings & much more! Afternoon programs are regularly scheduled between 1:30 and 3:30 pm. Choose your time, day and program! One morning or afternoon a week or just once per month will greatly enhance life at the Lodge!

• **Looking for Kaluki players** ... The Wednesday afternoon Kaluki card game requires two replacement players. All it takes is a few hours a week to play Kaluki with residents. Lessons are available if needed. Please call for further details.

• **Attention High School Students** ... Gain volunteer hours for community service requirement. A few hours at the Lodge benefits everybody! Help out with Sunday recreation programs and holiday events, escort residents to Saturday Synagogue services, dining room table setting or Monday evening bingo. You can spend an afternoon during school breaks too! If hands on is more your style ... Help with setting the dining room tables. One hour, either mornings or afternoons, call for available times.

• **Entertainers** ... Got a talent? Performers are welcome to apply and be enjoyed by all!

• **Reception/administrative help** ... Spend a few hours one day a week assisting with reception duties between noon and 2:00 pm.

For registration and orientation appointment, please call

Cheryl Cogan, Co-ordinator of Volunteers,
728-3900 ext. 191, or email cherylc@hillel-ltc.com
Students welcome (please note: children under the age of 14 require adult accompaniment)

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Dressing modestly can help you find your soulmate

You're a woman about to go on a date. You debate whether to wear your white pleated mini-skirt, or slip into your favourite ankle-length floral dress. You consider the locale, the weather and the event: A movie? Dinner at a posh restaurant? A rock concert?

The secret of self-promotion is to draw attention to your assets and play down any deficiencies. Adopting this notion, many dating authorities advise that women who are "well-endowed" should don a low-cut top, and guys with impressive biceps should wear short-sleeves. In other words: flaunt your wares.

Animals are prototypical for showing off their splendor and prowess during mating season, when competition can be fierce. It works for animals, and supposedly it works for humans too.

There's only one problem: Humans are not animals.

Animals strut about naked. As much as I love quadrupeds, I wouldn't want to be one. While humans have an animal-like body, we also have the unique ability to control our animalistic urges.

We demonstrate this control by putting buffers between our raw passions and the objects of gratification – hence, we use cutlery to eat, we ask before taking, we relieve ourselves behind closed doors, we cover our "private" parts. By wearing clothes, we declare to ourselves and others that we identify with being human more than with being an animal.

Dressing modestly generates an aura of dignity and self-



Dating 101

Jack Botwinik

respect. The clothes we wear affect our self-image, and how others perceive and treat us, which in turn influences how we act and interact.

If you're serious about finding someone compatible, and are not dating for sexual stimulation, it helps to dress conservatively.

A woman who exposes her body in order to win admirers often finds that the guys want her for her body and not for who she is. By covering up, there's less chance the guy will fall in love with an outer curvature of your flesh, as opposed to an inner quality of your personality.

So, how much of your torso is OK to reveal? Traditional Judaism offers guidelines – for example, covering the legs down to the knees, and not displaying skin below the collarbone.

While these rules may seem overly restrictive, keep in mind that, since the '60s, the level of modesty in dress in the

Western world has declined dramatically. Today, people wear as outer garments items of clothing previously considered to be underwear.

If you're looking for a partner with whom to build a successful marriage, it's worth keeping in mind mental and physical health, positive values, good judgment, similar interests and goals, solid communication skills and fine character traits are more pertinent factors than sex appeal when it comes to the challenges of buying a house, raising children, negotiating over money matters, dealing with the in-laws, dividing household chores, coping with illnesses – you get the point.

Years ago, my wife and I went house-hunting. At one open house, the living room was brightly lit, adorned with gorgeous plants, numerous wall mirrors and a sparkling white dining table that held a tray of dark mint chocolates. What I remember most, however, was the music: exquisite classical music, which caused my spirit to soar. I began to inquire after the composer and name of the piece, when my wife pried me away. Later, over dinner, we discussed the condo's price, the building facilities, the management and other practical considerations, and concluded the property wasn't a good fit for us. Emotionally, however, I still wanted it.

The human body is a beautiful commodity, but it's only one aspect of the person. Don't let it cloud your or your date's judgment of whether the two of you are a good fit.

Sophie Milman: a star is born

Sophie Milman is a fast-rising Canadian singing star. Early in November, my wife Deanna and I heard her in concert at Centrepointe. We enjoyed her hugely.

Milman was born in Russia 23 years ago. She immigrated to Israel at age seven and moved to Canada with her parents at age 16. Her father is a jazz fan and scrounged the Russian black market for jazz vinyl LPs.

This is the music she heard in childhood, and sang and danced to with her family. This is the music she sang when she auditioned successfully in Israel for a children's entertainment group, which toured the country and appeared on radio and TV.

The week before the outbreak of the Hezbollah-Israeli war, she spent with her family in Israel, celebrating her brother's Bar Mitzvah. Milman had to return to Canada before her family. When the war broke out, she tried desperately to reach her parents in Haifa.

At her Ottawa concert, she remembered those days and, invoking the memory of Chana Senesz, sang "Eli, Eli." In that song, and in the pathos of her version of "It's Not Easy Bein' Green," she let the audience know clearly where her heart was.

Her talent is obvious. Her voice is a high tremolo soprano – very tricky for a singer, because it can too easily go wrong and produce a shrill effect that alienates an audience.

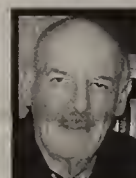
She handles it just fine. As her producer points out in the promotional video, she's one of the few jazz singers who can sing that way without risking her audience. Her vocal coach refers to this quality when describing what struck her when she first heard Milman sing.

She balances her singing technique with a warm personality that comes through to create a package that draws people into her performance.

She sings well in English, which is her third or fourth language. She still speaks Russian at home with her parents. She also sings in Hebrew and in French – "La Vie en Rose" is a favourite from her 2004 debut CD and one of the encore performances called for by the audience at the Centrepointe concert.

Milman is already an established success and some reviewers say she is one of the top five female jazz singers in Canada. Her 2004 CD sold well for a debut recording from a small label and she does well in the number of iTunes downloads.

She does not seem to be as comfortable in her stage performances as in her informal studio videos. Deanna commented she seemed to be trying to imitate 1940s-style dress and sophisticated sexuality of 'girl singers' of the swing era whom she has seen in old movies. But this is merely an off-



Global Shtetl The Jewish Internet

Saul Silverman

shoot of the early breakthrough to potential stardom.

The *Globe and Mail* jazz reviewer said in an article on the Toronto concert that started the short November tour, her performance will "grow into her voice." Clearly, with Sophie Milman, a star is being born.

Websites

Bein' Green (re. identity themes): http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bein'_Green

Sophie Milman official website: <http://www.limuseertainment.com/sophiemilman2006/>

Biographic interview at All About Jazz: <http://www.allaboutjazz.com/php/musician.php?id=2726>

Album review, b Jim Santella: <http://www.allaboutjazz.com/php/article.php?id=22164>

J. D. Considine concert review in *The Globe and Mail*, Oct. 30, 2006: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20061030.MILLMAN30/TPStory/TPEntertainment/Music/>

The following videos exist on the web:

Electronic press kit promo video (23 mins.): <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-306492733970649212&q=Sophie+Milman>

Ochi Chernye: <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-2504650866460267730&q=Sophie+Milman>

My Heart Belongs to Daddy: <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-4659200157606122539&q=Sophie+Milman>

Agua de Beber: <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=3195790128148130677&q=Sophie+Milman>

Back Home to Me: <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-5822095871788674627&q=Sophie+Milman>

For audio clips see the track listings on her 2004 debut album: <http://www.amazon.com/Sophie-Milman/dp/B000637XN8> (click on More About this Product)

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Continued on page 44



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May your Holiday
be Bright
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Sam Firestone for being nominated by the Ottawa Chamber of Commerce for "Business Person of the Year" award by the Executive, Board and Staff of the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation.

BESSIE AND BENJAMIN POLOWIN MEMORIAL FUND

In observance of the Yahrzeit of:

Bessie and Benjamin Polowin, a dear mother and father by Alex and Kathleen Polowin.

GERALD AND MARY-BELLE PULVERMACHER FAMILY ENDOWMENT FUND

Congratulations to:

Wes Nicol on his Honourary Doctorate of Laws by Carleton University by Mary-Belle and Gerry Pulvermacher.

In memory of:

Eileen Korman's father by Mary-Belle and Gerry Pulvermacher.

In observance of the Yahrzeit of:

Peter Swedko by Mary-Belle and Gerry Pulvermacher.

Speedy recovery to:

Hymen Rabinovitch by Mary-Belle and Gerry Pulvermacher.

SHELLEY AND SID ROTHMAN FAMILY FUND

Mazel Tov to:

Stephen Victor, OC, for being the 2006 Negev Dinner Honoree by Shelley and Sid Rothman.

CECIL AND FLORENCE SHINDER ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of:

Barry Koffman by Florence Shinder.

DR. ROBERT NORMAN SHOIHET MEMORIAL FUND

In observance of the Yahrzeit of:

Norm Shohet by Lillian Shohet.

FAY AND JOSEPH SHULMAN ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of:

Freda Greenberg by Marcia and Charles Rak.

LORNE AND LAURIE SHUSTERMAN FAMILY FUND

In memory of:

Kathleen Ouade by Lorne, Laurie, Zak and Ben Shusterman.

Florence Campbell by Lorne, Laurie, Zak and Ben Shusterman.

Yvonne Laviolette by Laurie Shusterman.

Congratulations to:

Goodey Weedmark and Associates on their 50th anniversary by Laurie Shusterman.

LOUIS AND STELLA SLACK MEMORIAL FUND

Birthday wishes to:

Sol Gunner on his special birthday by Myra, Lester, Jennifer, Oona, Gregory and Jordan Aronson.

Ron Vexler on his 60th birthday by Myra and Lester Aronson.

LAURA AND GORDON SPERGER ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of:

Harry Stone by Laura and Gordon Sperger.

Mazel Tov to:


Lynda and Bruce Cowley on their special occasion by Mark, Maria, Andrew Samantha and Evan Sperger.

DORIS AND RICHARD STERN FAMILY FUND

Mazel Tov to:

Mr. and Mrs. Brodsky and family on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Rachel by Coris and Richard Stern.

Continued on page 45



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Anniversary wishes to:

Bertha and Michael Shulman on their very special wedding anniversary by Doris and Richard Stern.

CASEY AND BESS SWEDLOVE ENDDWMENT FUND

In memory of:
Faga Gardner by Casey and Bess Swedlove.

JAY B. TALLER MEMORIAL FUND

In observance of the Yahrzeit of:
Beth Roodman's father by Sally and Morton Teller.
In memory of:
Barry Koffman by Sally and Morton Teller.

THE TARANTOUR FAMILY FUND

Birthday wishes to:
Ann Lazear on her special birthday by Selma Taranlour, Sonia Taranlour Pearl and Teena Goldberg.

CHARLES AND RAE TAVEL MEMORIAL FUND

Anniversary wishes to:
Sunny and John Tavel on their 40th wedding anniversary by Rick and Barry Baker.

TENNENHOUSE FAMILY ENDDWMENT FUND

Birthday wishes to:
Faye Tennenhouse by Arnold and the Family.

STEPHEN AND GAIL VICTOR ENDDWMENT FUND

Mazel Tov to:
Stephen Victor on being the 2006 Negav Dinner Honoree by Ray and Ellen Fathi and family; and by Corinne and Sheldon Taylor and family.
In appreciation to:
Stephen and Gail Victor by Joan and Russell Kronick.

SONIA AND ARTHUR VINER MEMORIAL FUND

Best wishes to:
Elaine and Wally Viner for a safe trip to Czechoslovakia and Auschwitz by Gladys and John Greenberg.

MICHAEL WALSH AND LISA ROSENKRANTZ ENDDWMENT FUND

In honour of:
Evan James Harding's Benji Miah by Lisa Rosenkrantz.

JACK AND LINDA SMITH ENDDWMENT FUND

Anniversary wishes to:
Mr. and Mrs. Don Park on their 50th wedding anniversary by Jack and Linda Smith.

MIRIAM AND LOUIS WEINER ENDDWMENT FUND

In memory of:
Faga Gardner by Miriam and Louis Weiner.
Anniversary wishes to:
Goldie and Jack Lobel on their 62nd wedding anniversary by Miriam and Louis Weiner.

Birthday wishes to:

Jeffrey Rosenberg on his 60th birthday by Minam and Louis Weiner.

MILDRED AND PERCY WEINSTEIN ENDDWMENT FUND

Mazel Tov to:
Ab and Phyllis Flatt on the birth of their granddaughter by Millie Weinstein.
Birthday wishes to:
Stanley Aron on his special birthday by Millie Weinstein.

ZIPES KARANOFKY FAMILY ENDDWMENT FUND

Anniversary wishes to:
Mr. and Mrs. Ken Yuen on their 25th wedding anniversary by Rick and Helen Zipes.
Speedy recovery to:
Hy Rabinovitch by Rick and Helen Zipes.
Manny Melamed by Rick and Helen Zipes, Kyle, Erin and Michael.

THE SAUL AND EDNA GOLDFARB

B'NAI MITZVAH PROGRAM

JORDAN SAMUEL FINN B'NAI MITZVAH FUND

In memory of:
Evelyn Popky by Sharon and Paul Finn and family.
R'Yosh Sh'lemah to:
Morris Samel by Sharon and Paul Finn and family.

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ottawa Jewish bulletin

Readers and advertisers are advised that the next edition of the **Ottawa Jewish Bulletin** will be published on **Monday, January 22, 2007.**

The deadline date is **Wednesday, January 3, 2007.**



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CHANUKAH SPECIAL!

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Auxiliary to hold Chanukah party at Hillel Lodge

By Marion Silver

While winter's icy grip may be descending upon us, it is warming up in the Bess and Moe Greenberg Family Hillel Lodge.

Thanks to the efforts of Sarah Swedler and her team of capable volunteers from the Auxiliary of the lodge, the residents will be treated to a traditional Chanukah party on Sunday, December 17. With the aroma of delicious latkes frying and the joyful melodies of Chanukah music resonating, a good time will be sure to be enjoyed by all.

The gift shop at Hillel Lodge is maintained by the Auxiliary and all proceeds are turned right back

to the benefit of the residents at Hillel Lodge. If you are looking for a gift - wedding, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, baby-naming, or hostess, to name a few - or, if you are in the mood to treat yourself, visit the gift shop. With a wonderful selection and prices to suit every budget, you can be sure you will find that unique and special something.

Recently, the Auxiliary hosted its most successful tea ever, raising funds to help support very necessary therapeutic programs threatened by provincial government cuts.

Elissa Iny, daughter of the honoree, 100-year-old Bess Greenberg, says, "The tea was amazing,

and my sisters and I were really pleased and appreciative."

If you have not as yet paid your pledge, please consider this a gentle reminder.

The Auxiliary is always looking for new members. Meetings are only held once a month and not usually during the winter months. What can be a better way of observing the commandment to honour thy father and thy mother than to ensure that our elderly are well cared for?

Arnell Goldberg (left) and Elissa Iny admire prize winner Sid Cohen's crochet bear made by Tracey Kronick.



Ouimet proud citizens not duped by Tissot

(Continued from page 1)

Entering into this world was the Belgian-born Jean Tissot, who immigrated to Canada in 1908, becoming an Ottawa police officer in 1910. Known as a Catholic *pur et dur*, he was a member of the *Ordre de Jacques-Cartier*, a Catholic organization founded in 1926 to protect francophone interests as a result of Bill 17 - the law which outlawed French in Ontario schools. Certain extreme elements of the *Ordre* openly opposed Jewish immigration, businesses and institutions.

The book shows how, through his connections with the *Ordre*, the Church, certain politicians and businesses, Tissot tried to foment hatred towards Ottawa's Jews and communists who were often portrayed as the same as Jews.

Tissot was an admitted follower of Adrien Arcand, the notorious Québec Nazi who founded the Parti national social chrétien (National Socialist Christian Party) whose "Blue Shirts" provided a Nazi face to Québec before being dismantled by the RCMP in 1940.

The most direct target of Tissot's anti-Semitic tirades was A. J. Freiman, founder of the popular Freiman's Department Store on Rideau Street and one-time president of the Canadian Jewish Congress. In 1935, after a tirade of anti-Semitic articles, letters, accusations and attempted boycotts, Freiman filed an official complaint with the chief of police and launched a lawsuit against Tissot.

Tissot was suspended from the

force, quickly mobilizing his network of anti-Semitic businessmen, politicians and Church leaders. A flurry of support meetings took place, none of them with great public backing, with Tissot putting his name forward in the federal election of 1935 as an anti-communist.

"Nothing is more convincing to me than the danger of communism and the Jewish peril," he wrote.

A.J. Freiman won his lawsuit against Tissot and the Ottawa policeman lost badly in the election. Tissot left Ottawa to become police chief in Rouyn, Québec. He died in Montréal in 1965.

Although obviously uncomfortable with this chapter of history, Ouimet is proud the citizens of the region were never duped by the propaganda of Tissot and his ilk.

"The Jewish businesses of Ottawa distinguished themselves from other businesses by respecting francophones ... by speaking French. Businesses run by such families as the Freimans, the Caplans, the Slogers, the Fines, etc. were well patronized by francophones. The anti-Semitic calls for boycotts by the anti-Semites never resonated with the people," he says.

The book, *L'affaire Tissot - Campagne antisémite en Outaouais*, is published by Éditions des Hautes-Terres and is available in area French-language bookstores: Librairie du Soleil in the Byward Market, Archambault in Gatineau and Librairie Renaud-Bray in Hull.



Rabbi Chaim Mendelsohn lights the chanukah at Ben Franklin Place. This year's Chabad of Centrepointe/Ottawa Torah Center joint event takes place Monday, December 18 at 6 pm.

(Photo: Howard Sandler)

Chabad Centrepointe and OTC to host annual Chanukah event

On Monday, December 18, 2006 Chabad of Centrepointe and the Ottawa Torah Center will host the annual spectacular Chanukah Event with grand menorah lighting and activities for all ages.

The program begins at 6 pm at Ben Franklin Place, 101 Centrepointe Drive.

Chanukah is the famous Jewish "Festival of Lights" celebrating the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem as well as the legend of one day's oil burning for eight days until the supply could be replenished.

The message of Chanukah is one of hope in the face of extreme adversity, a message with broad

appeal to everyone who believes in religious freedom and that faith and determination can triumph against even the most overwhelming odds.

The Chanukah celebration will highlight a variety of Jewish cultural traditions, customary Chanukah tunes and free traditional holiday snacks such as jelly doughnuts and chocolate coins. In addition, the event will have many exciting features for children, including a giant jumping castle, popcorn, cotton candy, Chanukah crafts and more.

A special feature will be a Family Circus Show from Toronto. The performance includes a fast-paced

uggling duo, a hula-hoop display of dazzling dexterity, super strength balancing acts, a combination of contortion and acrobatic perfection and hilarious clown acts.

From Paris to Buenos Aires, Cairo to California, Madrid to Moscow, Chabad public menorahs light up cities and towns around the globe.

All are welcome to attend the public menorah lighting and party that promises to be a fabulous event for young and old.

For more information on the Chanukah celebration please visit www.ChabadCentrepointe.com or www.OttawaTorahCenter.com.

WHAT'S GOING ON December 4, 2006 to January 21, 2007

Happy Chanukah to the
Ottawa Jewish Community



CANDLELIGHTING BEFORE

Dec 8 ☆ 4:02 pm
Dec 15 ☆ 4:02 pm
Dec 22 ☆ 4:03 pm
Dec 29 ☆ 4:10 pm
Jan 5 ☆ 4:16 pm
Jan 12 ☆ 4:24 pm
Jan 19 ☆ 4:33 pm

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 6

An Engaging Evening with
Walid Shoebat, Friends of Simon
Wiesenthal lecture, 7:00 pm.

Pre-Chanukah Women's
Night Out, Chabad of Centre-
pointe, The Feminine Side of
Chanukah, 261 Centrepoin-
te Drive, 7:30 pm.

TUESDAY DECEMBER 12

Maica Pass Book Discus-
sion Group, "The World to
Come by Dara Horn," reviewer:
Dr. Sidney Kardash, Agudath
Israel Congregation, 1400 Col-
drey Avenue, 7:30 pm.

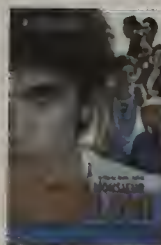
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13

The Ottawa College of Jew-
ish Studies and the SJCC, The
Great Commentators Series:
Rabbi Dr. Justin Lewis - Eating
from the tree of life The Zohar,
7:30 pm.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 16

SJCC, JET and P2K
Chanukah Family Celebration,
6:30 pm.

JETSetters Chanukah Party,
home of Neil and Sophia Frenkel,
8:00 p.m.



SUNDAY DECEMBER 17

Ottawa Jewish Film Society
"Bonjour Monsieur Shalom,"
2:00 pm.

MONDAY DECEMBER 18

JET, Lawyer's Lunch and
Learn, Gowings, Place Bell, 26th
floor, 160 Elgin St., Suite 2600,
noon

Ottawa Torah Center and
Chabad of Centrepoin-
te annual Chanukah event with grand
menorah lighting and lots of
fun activities, Ben Franklin
Place, 101 Centrepoin-
te Drive, 6:00 pm.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 21

Jewish Youth Library, Shab-
baton Weekend in New York,
New York Crown Heights,
(December 21-24).

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 27

Jewish Singles Social
Group 35+, Maxwell's Bistro &
Wine Bar, 300 Elgin Street
/Gilmour, 8:00 pm.

MONDAY JANUARY 1

JET, Deadline to Order Mish-
lach Marot.

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 3

SJCC Teen Department, Teen
Pizza & Movie Night, 6:00 pm.

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 7

SJCC Family Senators Game,
meet at the SJCC, 2:00 pm.

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 10

The Ottawa College of
Jewish Studies and the SJCC,
The Great Commentators

Series: Rabbi Mordechai
Berger - Tanya: Learning from
Kabbalah and Jewish Mysti-
cism, 7:30 pm.

SUNDAY JANUARY 14

Ottawa Jewish Film Society
"Gloomy Sunday," 2:00 pm.

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 17

SJCC Teen Department,
Teen Movie Night, 7:00 pm.

FRIDAY JANUARY 19

JET, Winter Shabbaton,
Albert at Bay Suite Hotel, 435
Albert St., 3:00 pm (Jan. 19-21).

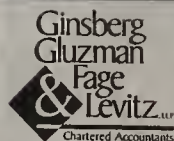
COMING SOON

FEBRUARY 4, 2007

Vered Israel Cultural Centre and Max and Tessie Zelikovitz
Centre for Jewish Studies and Research, Carleton University
lecture by Khaleel Mohammed, "Judaism and Israel," 7:30 pm.

Unless otherwise noted, activities take place at The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 21 Nadolny Sachs Private.

This information is taken from the community calendar maintained by the Jewish Community Campus of Ottawa Inc. Organizations which would like their events to be listed, no matter where they are to be held, should make sure they are recorded by Brenda Schaffer, calendar coordinator at 798-9818 ext. 255. We have voice mail. Accurate details must be provided and all events must be open to the Jewish public. You may fax to 798-9829 or email to bschaffer@jccottawa.com.



Happy Chanukah greetings to the Ottawa Jewish Community

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Dr. Sylvia Kaufman
Eve Torontow Flesher
Marlette Woolfson, Montreal

May their memory
be a blessing always.

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For a listing in this column,
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Voice mail is available.

BULLETIN DEADLINES 2007

JANUARY 3 FOR JANUARY 22
JANUARY 17 FOR FEBRUARY 5
JANUARY 31 FOR FEBRUARY 19
FEBRUARY 14 FOR MARCH 5